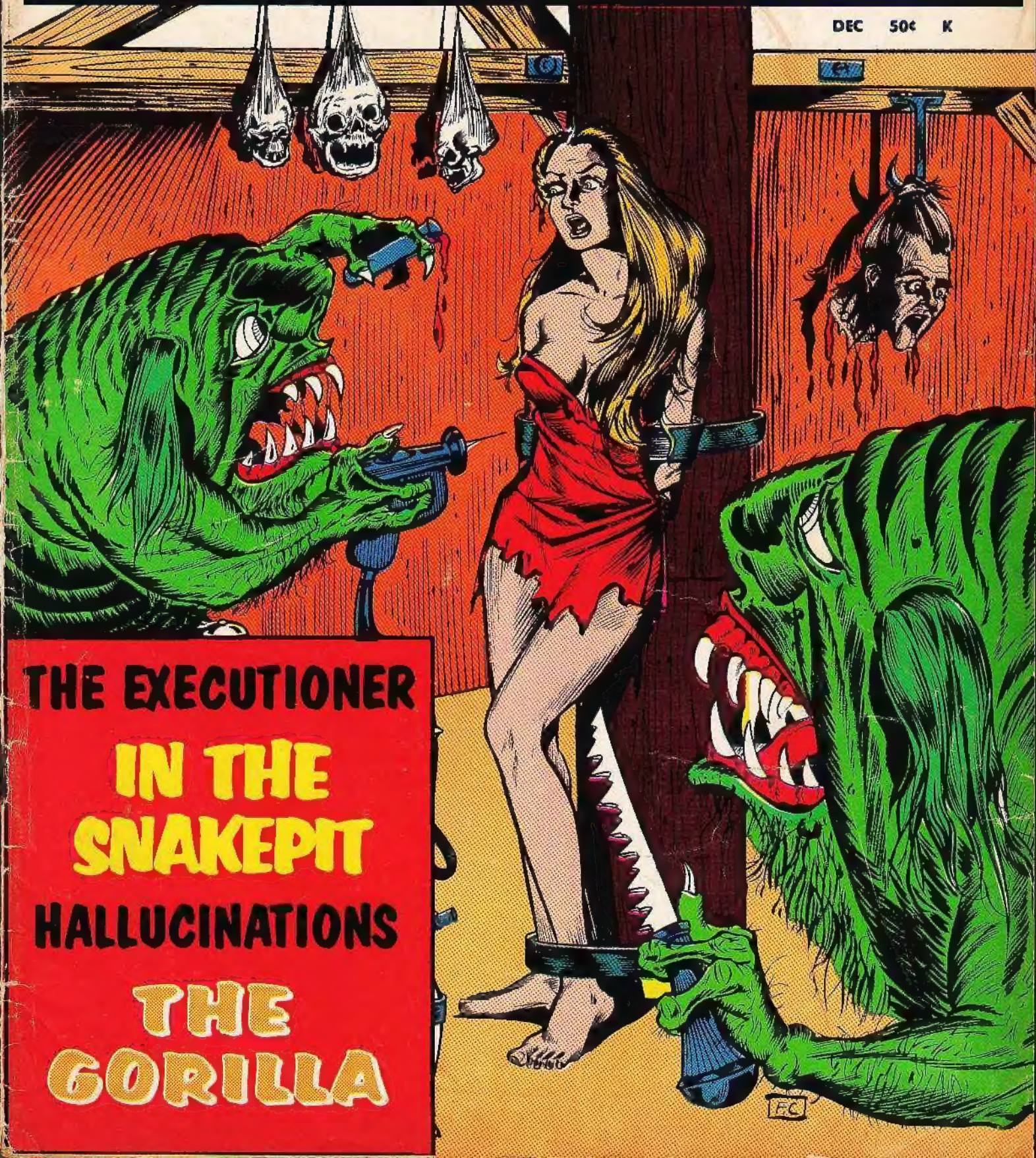


# STARK TERROR

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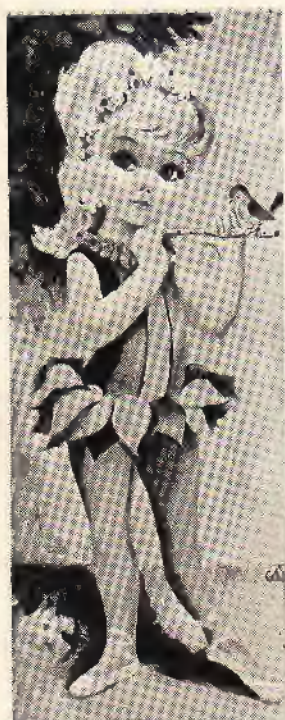
**THE EXECUTIONER**  
**IN THE**  
**SNAKEPIT**  
**HALLUCINATIONS**  
**THE**  
**GORILLA**

TEC



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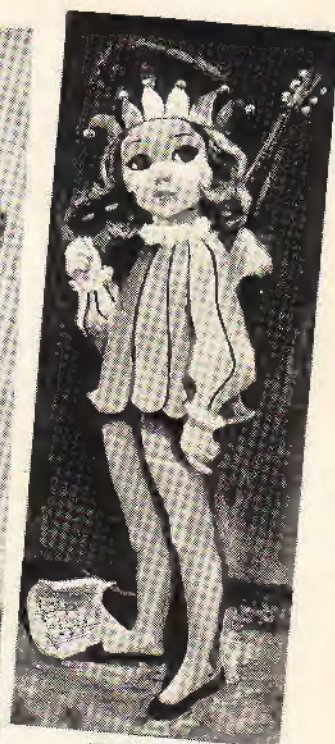
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# STARK TERROR

VOL. 1, NO. 1

DECEMBER 1970

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# CRY WOLF!

FATE STEPPED IN AND DEALT THE HAND... A HAND THAT JOHNNY LANG TRIED TO CASH IN... BUT SOMEWHERE IN THE DECK WAS A JOKER... A JOKER THAT CAUSED HIM TO CASH IN HIS CHIPS!

BOY, THIS GUY IS REALLY OFF HIS ROCKER!



WE CAN PICK UP JOHNNY'S STORY ANY PLACE. HERE IS A TYPICAL SCENE IN HIS JOB AS A MESSENGER FOR SCHMIDT'S BANKING SERVICE...



DUMKOPF... YOU TOOK LONG ENOUGH! WHAT WERE YOU DOING, FEEDING THE BIRDS?

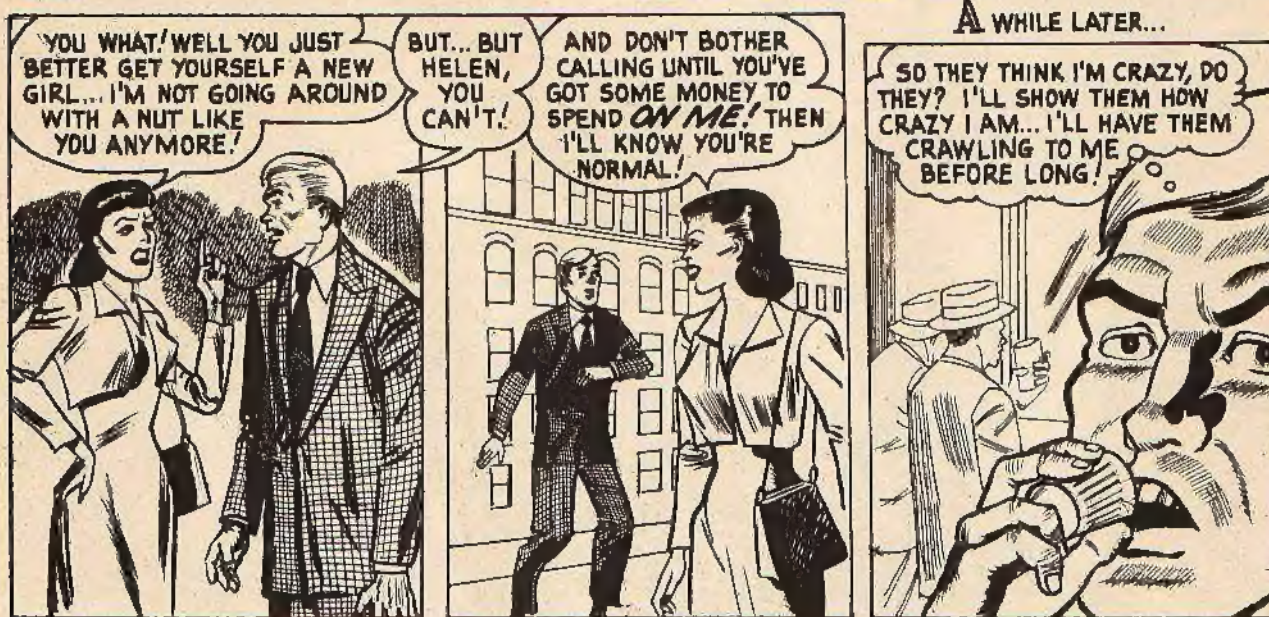
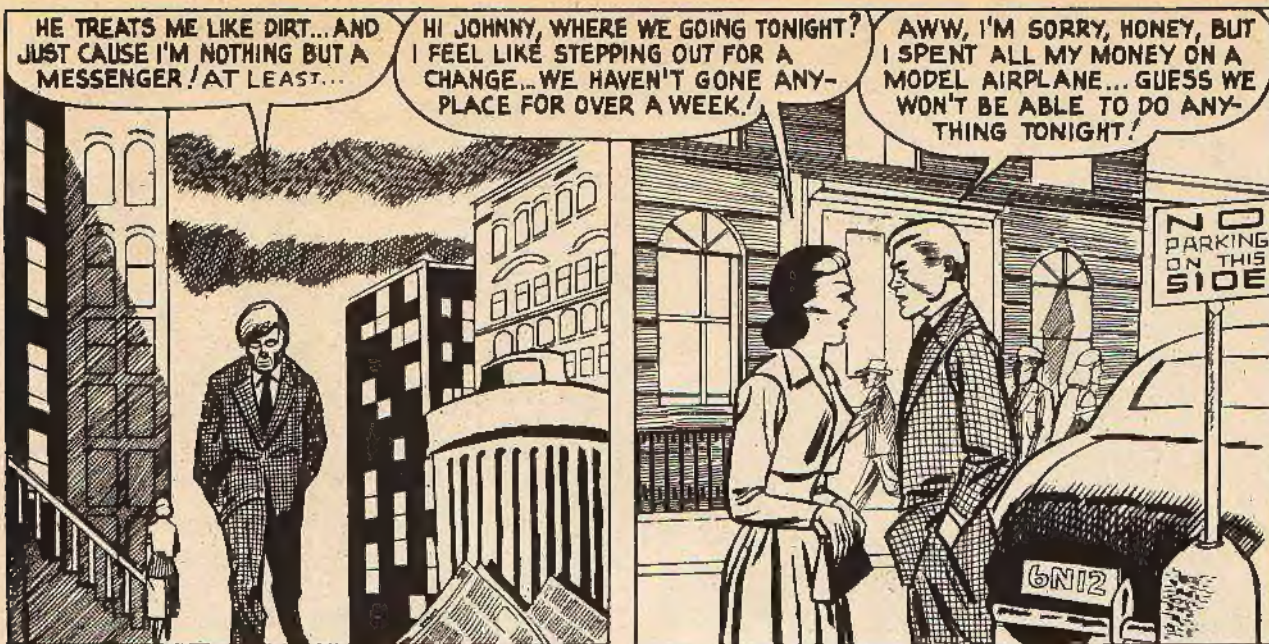
GEE, I'M SORRY MISTER SCHMIDT, I WAS WATCHING THEM PUT UP THAT NEW BUILDING! GUESS I FORGOT ABOUT THE TIME!

MORON! SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY! WALKING AROUND WITH \$10,000 LIKE IT WAS PEANUTS!

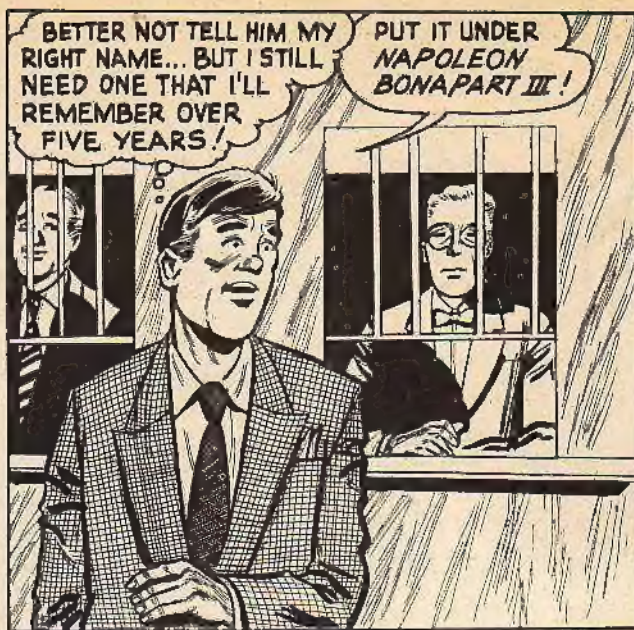
YES, SIR... ER, I MEAN NO, SIR!











BACK AT THE OFFICE...



NOW YOU'VE FINISHED THE SECOND PART OF THE ACT... NOW YOU WOULD REALLY SHOW HIM THAT YOU WERE MAD!





IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR SCHMIDT TO BRING YOU TO TRIAL...  
WHICH WAS EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANTED!



THE VERDICT WAS QUICKLY REACHED...



A FEW DAYS LATER...



A YEAR AND A HALF LATER...

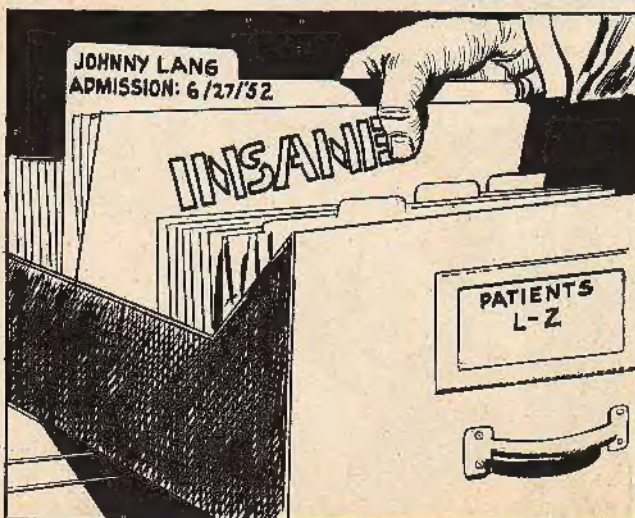




AND SO JOHNNY WENT TO WORK TO CONVINCE THE AUTHORITIES THAT HE WAS STILL INSANE...



A FEW DAYS LATER THE SKEPTICAL PSYCHIATRIST EXAMINED JOHNNY LANG AGAIN...





THE YEARS PASSED QUICKLY AND FINALLY THE DAY JOHNNY WAS WAITING FOR ARRIVED...



YES... FATE DEALT THE HAND, BUT NOBODY TOLD JOHNNY ABOUT THE JOKER IN THE DECK!

The End



IN THE UNDERWORLD THERE IS ONE THAT EVERY GANGSTER, HOOD, RACKETEER FEARS! FOR THIS IS THE ONE THAT KEEPS THEM ALL IN LINE... THE ONE THAT TAKES CARE OF THE DOUBLE CROSSERS AND THE WELCHERS... TAKES CARE OF THEM WITH A MURDEROUS AXE... FOR THIS IS THE WAY OF...

# THE EXECUTIONER!



CHARLTON GROSS WAS NOT OF THE UNDERWORLD, BUT HE WAS THE TYPE THEY FEASTED ON... FOR CHARLTON HAD ONE MANIA... GAMBLING! RIGHT NOW HE IS IN THE HOLE FOR A SMALL FORTUNE AND IS TRYING TO RECOUP! GO AHEAD CHARLTON... SHOOT THE WORKS!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHARLTON... GETTING NERVOUS? WATCH THE LITTLE WHITE BALL, CHARLTON. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

IT'S SLOWING DOWN, CHARLTON... JUST A LITTLE MORE... A LITTLE MORE... WHY DOESN'T THAT BALL STOP?

AWW, TOO BAD CHARLTON, YOU LOSE AGAIN! WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY TO PAY... OH, TONY ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THAT... NOT ONE BIT!





GO AHEAD, CHARLTON, TELL HIM THE STORY... HE'LL UNDERSTAND! TONY ROCCO IS THE UNDERSTANDING TYPE! TELL HIM HOW YOU LOST \$200,000... AND HOW YOU CAN'T PAY HIM! MAYBE HE'LL TAKE YOUR IOU... BUT MAYBE HE WON'T!



I... I CAN'T PAY YOU RIGHT NOW... BUT I'LL MAKE IT GOOD! HERE, TAKE MY IOU!

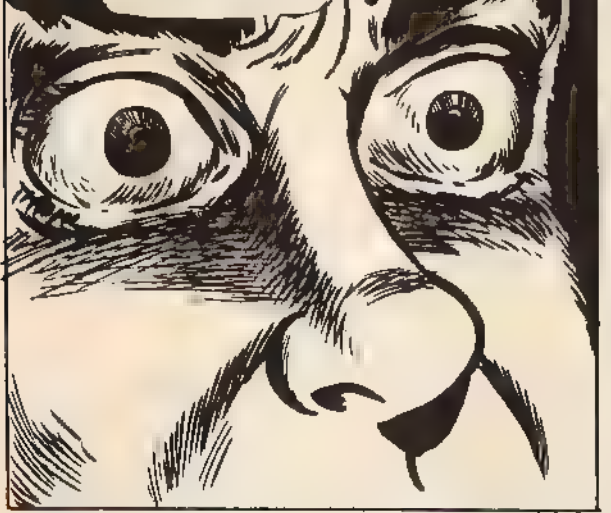
YOU DID A BAD THING, MR. GROSS... AND YOU DON'T LEAVE ME MUCH CHOICE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THAT I LEAVE YOU NO CHOICE! I'LL GET THE MONEY FOR YOU... JUST GIVE ME TIME!

I GOTTA MAKE A LESSON OUT OF YOU, MR. GROSS! OTHERWISE PEOPLE WILL GET THE IDEA THAT THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH MURDER FROM TONY ROCCO! THAT'S WHY I'LL GIVE YOU TWO DAYS TO RAISE THE DOUGH... ELSE I CALL IN... **THE EXECUTIONER!**



**NO! NOT THE EXECUTIONER... ANYTHING BUT THAT! I'LL PAY, TONY... I SWEAR IT!**



THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, MR. GROSS... NOTHING PERSONAL ABOUT IT, BUT EITHER YOU GET THE DOUGH UP IN FORTY EIGHT HOURS OR ELSE I CALL IN THE EXECUTIONER!



NO WONDER YOU SHUDDERED AT THE SOUND OF THE NAME... FOR THE EXECUTIONER IS THE GUARDIAN OF THE UNDERWORLD... THE PERSON WHO KEEPS THEM ALL IN LINE! REMEMBER JOEY WALSH? TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE EAST SIDE... AND TOMMY RENALDS... WAS GOING TO TALK TO THE COPS. AND PRETTY LYNN DOERR... SHE WAS TOUGH FREDDY PARIS' GIRL UNTIL SHE WANTED OUT. WELL, THE EXECUTIONER TOOK CARE OF THEM... JUST AS YOU'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF... WITH THAT AXE!





THERE'S ALWAYS ONE PERSON WHO YOU CAN TURN TO... YOUR WIFE, HELEN... SHE'S THE UNDERSTANDING TYPE... STICKING WITH YOU THROUGH ALL THESE YEARS OF GAMBLING DEBTS... SHE'LL UNDERSTAND...



WHAT IS IT, HONEY? WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S THE SAME... NO, NOTHING REALLY WRONG... IT'LL STRAIGHTEN ITSELF OUT!

NO, DON'T TELL HER... IT'S BETTER IF SHE DIDN'T KNOW... HOW CAN YOU KEEP ON HURTING A GIRL WHO'S ALWAYS LOVED YOU SO VERY MUCH!

ARE YOU SURE, DARLING? YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T KEEP ANYTHING FROM ME... I KNOW YOU TOO WELL!

IT'S REALLY NOTHING, HELEN... JUST BUSINESS! BUT I'LL WORK IT OUT!



THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY OF CHARLTON WORKING IT OUT... THAT WAS TO RAISE THE MONEY! BUT \$200,000 IS AN AWFUL LOT OF DOUGH TO RAISE... ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE DEEPLY IN DEBT AS IT IS...

AND FINALLY THE TWO DAYS WERE UP... MAYBE TONY WOULD SOFTEN UP... GIVE YOU MORE TIME...

HERE'S THIRTY THOUSAND, TONY... JUST GIVE ME MORE TIME... I'LL GET THE REST!

NO DICE, MR. GROSS... I GOTTA MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU... THAT'S WHAT THE SYNDICATE TOLD ME! MEL, SHOW MR. GROSS OUT, I GOTTA IMPORTANT CALL TO MAKE!



THAT'S AN UNLISTED NUMBER HE'S DIALING, CHARLTON... A NUMBER WHICH TAKES MESSAGES FOR ONLY ONE PERSON... THE EXECUTIONER!

NO! DON'T DO IT, TONY... GIVE ME A BREAK!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, MR. GROSS... YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT YOU! ONE SWING AND IT'S ALL OVER!



IT BUZZED FOR A MOMENT AND THEN...

GOT A **CONTRACT** FOR THE EXECUTIONER! FELLA BY THE NAME OF...

... PLEASE, NO NAMES!



JUST MAIL THE DETAILS TO THE USUAL PLACE AND I'LL ATTEND TO THE MATTER! YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM ME IN A FEW DAYS!

GOTCHA! I'LL GET THAT STUFF OUT RIGHT AWAY!





TONY MAILED THE DETAILS TO THE USUAL PLACE... A POST OFFICE DEPOSIT BOX, AND THE NEXT DAY...

NO NAMES... JUST IDENTIFY THE FACE AND IMPRINT IT ON YOUR MEMORY, THAT WAY THERE CAN'T BE ANY SLIP-UPS! WOULDN'T WANT TO MAKE THE **WRONG CONTRACT!**

NOW GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE... YOU WON'T FORGET THAT FACE... YOU NEVER HAVE SLIPPED UP, WHY SHOULD YOU START NOW?



BUT CHARLTON GROSS WASN'T GOING TO GIVE UP WITHOUT A STRUGGLE... LIFE WAS TOO PRECIOUS TO LOSE NOT TO FIGHT FOR...

CHARLTON HAD PLANNED WELL, HADN'T HE? SURELY, THE EXECUTIONER'S AXE DIDN'T EXTEND ALL THE WAY TO SOUTH AMERICA!

CHARLTON: WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT'S UP?  
WE'RE LEAVING THE COUNTRY, DARLING! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN STAY ALIVE! WE'LL START A NEW LIFE TOGETHER IN SOUTH AMERICA... WHERE NOBODY WILL KNOW US!

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM?  
NEVER MIND THAT! I BOUGHT THIS PLANE TO TAKE US ALL THE WAY... THAT WAY WE CAN BE ALONE! SINCE WE BOTH KNOW HOW TO FLY, WE CAN SPELL EACH OTHER! SHOULDN'T BE TOO DIFFICULT!



HELEN DIDN'T ARGUE AND SOON THEY WERE AIRBORNE! THE HOURS PASSED AND FINALLY CHARLTON BEGAN TO FEEL THE FATIGUE OF THE STRAIN OF FLYING...

YES, CHARLTON, IT IS HELEN... THE EXECUTIONER! WHO WOULD SUSPECT A WOMAN... CERTAINLY NOT YOU! AND SHE HAS FULFILLED THE CONTRACT JUST AS SHE ALWAYS DOES... TOO BAD IT HAD TO BE YOU!

OKAY HELEN, IT'S ABOUT TIME... NO!  
HELEN! NOT YOU!

ARRRGHHH!





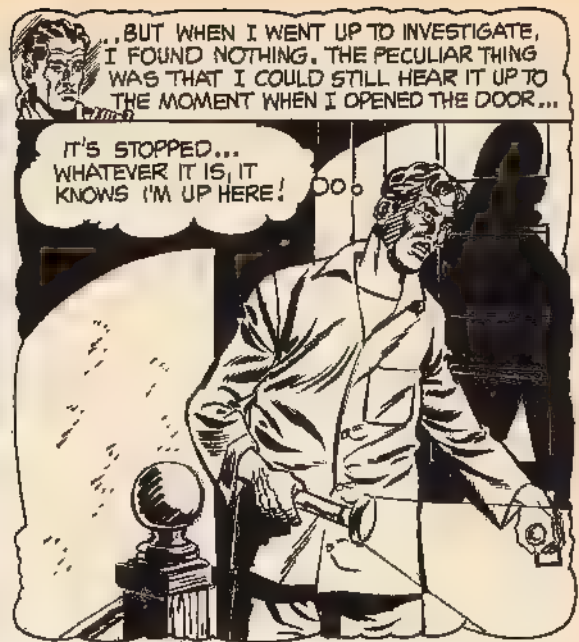
DR. HOLBRAUNER WAS A PSYCHIATRIST, AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE HOME OF JAMES J. SMYTHE. BUT IN ALL HIS YEARS OF PRACTICE, THE GOOD DOCTOR HAD NEVER RUN ACROSS ANYTHING LIKE MR. SMYTHE'S

# "HALLUCINATIONS!"





I BEGAN HEARING STRANGE NOISES IN THE ATTIC ABOVE MY BEDROOM...LIKE SOMEONE WALKING ABOUT IN BARE FEET...



...THE MYSTERIOUS NUISANCE KEPT ME AWAKE EVERY NIGHT AND THE EERINESS OF IT HAD ME SICK WITH FEAR...I COULDN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER...



...I WROTE TO MY OLD COLLEGE FRIEND, GEORGE LYMAN, AND INVITED HIM TO STAY THE WEEKEND WITH ME...



I RELATED ALL THE GRISLY DETAILS...

JIM, I THINK LIVING ALONE IN THIS BIG HOUSE HAS MADE YOU JUMPY... IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING BUT YOUR IMAGINATION!

I TELL YOU IT'S NOT IMAGINED, GEORGE...TONIGHT YOU'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO HEAR IT FOR YOURSELF!



I GAVE GEORGE THE ROOM ADJOINING MINE...THE DOOR BETWEEN WAS UNLOCKED...

PERHAPS GEORGE IS RIGHT...MAYBE WITH HIM HERE IT WON'T HAPPEN...





BUT NO SOONER HAD I DOZED OFF WHEN I AWOKE WITH A START...THE FOOTSTEPS HAD BEGUN, BUT THIS TIME THEY WERE RAPID...ERRATIC...LIKE SOMEONE PACING BACK AND FORTH IN AGITATION...

I WAS ABOUT TO YELL FOR GEORGE WHEN SUDDENLY A GREAT WEIGHT FELL UPON MY CHEST, PINNING ME DOWN, KNOCKING THE WIND FROM MY LUNGS...

THERE IT IS AGAIN!



UNSEEN HANDS TIGHTENED ABOUT MY THROAT, CHOKING ME. TERROR GRIPPED MY VERY SOUL, FOR IN MY ATTEMPTS TO FREE MYSELF FROM THE AWFUL STRANGLEHOLD, I COULD FEEL THE CREATURE'S HOT BREATH ON MY FACE...FEEL ITS WARM, NAKED FLESH...AND YET I COULD SEE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. THE "THING" WAS **INVISIBLE!**





AT LAST I MANAGED TO WREST ITS HANDS FROM MY THROAT...SWINGING WILDLY, DESPERATELY, I STRUCK SEVERAL BLIND, LUCKY BLOWS TO ITS HEAD. IT SEEMED TO GO LIMP...

GEORGE! GEORGE...COME QUICKLY!



WHEN GEORGE CAME INTO THE ROOM, A STRANGE SIGHT GREETED HIS EYES. I WAS STANDING AND WINDING THE BELT OF MY ROBE IN 'MIDAIR!

JIM...WHAT IN THE WORLD...!

IT ATTACKED ME! I'VE MANAGED TO KNOCK IT OUT! HELP ME TIE THE **THING** UP BEFORE IT COMES TO!



AT FIRST HE THOUGHT I HAD LOST MY MIND COMPLETELY, BUT WHEN I INDUCED HIM TO PUT OUT HIS HAND AND TOUCH IT...

GOOD GRIEF, MAN! THERE *IS* SOMETHING THERE!... BUT WHAT...?

I WOULD SAY IT'S IN THE SHAPE OF A MAN, BUT WHO, OR WHAT KIND OF MAN I COULDN'T BEGIN TO GUESS...



I HAVE IT! WE CAN SPRINKLE FLOUR OVER IT. THAT SHOULD HELP US FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

GOOD! I HAVE SOME IN THE KITCHEN!



WE COVERED ITS FACE WITH A GENEROUS COATING OF FLOUR, AND VERY SHORTLY THE 'THING'S' FEATURES BECAME ALL TOO DISCERNABLE...WE GAZED IN DISBELIEF AT THE FACE BEFORE US...

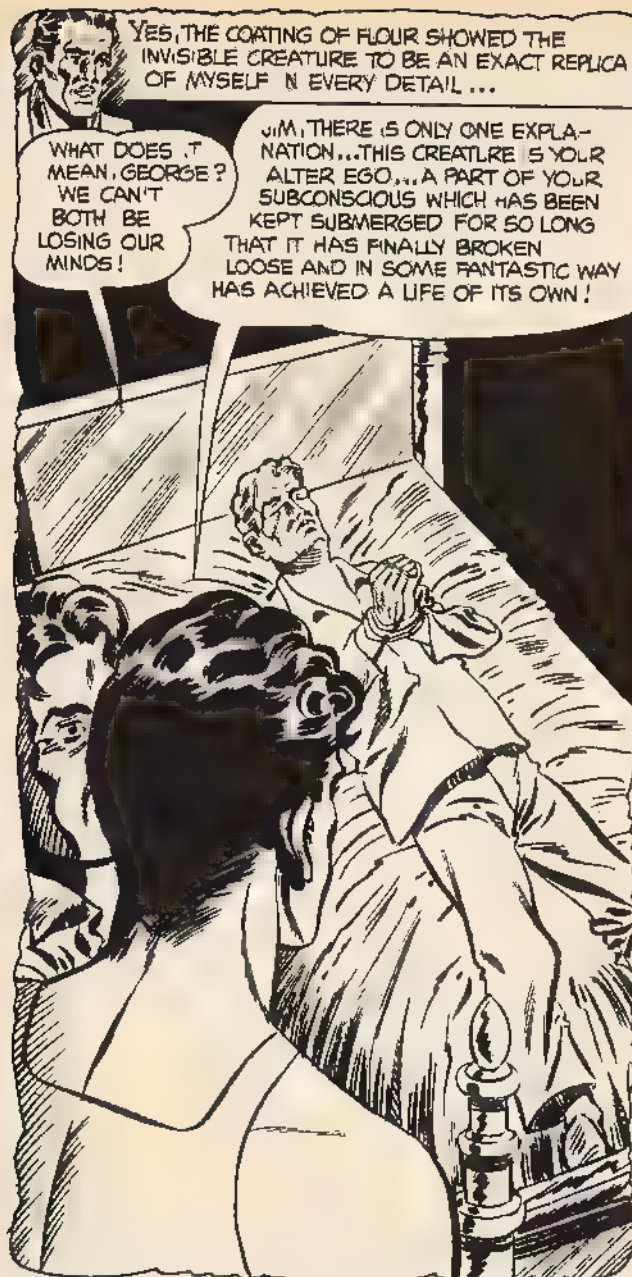


JIM, IT'S...

ME!







YES, THE COATING OF FLOUR SHOWED THE INVISIBLE CREATURE TO BE AN EXACT REPLICA OF MYSELF IN EVERY DETAIL ...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN, GEORGE? WE CAN'T BOTH BE LOSING OUR MINDS!

JIM, THERE IS ONLY ONE EXPLANATION... THIS CREATURE IS YOUR ALTER EGO... A PART OF YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS WHICH HAS BEEN KEPT SUBMERGED FOR SO LONG THAT IT HAS FINALLY BROKEN LOOSE AND IN SOME FANTASTIC WAY HAS ACHIEVED A LIFE OF ITS OWN!



IF THAT'S SO, THEN I CAN'T KILL IT! IT WOULD BE LIKE DESTROYING SOMETHING OF MYSELF... I WONDER...

DESPITE ITS INVISIBILITY, I REALIZED THAT MY ALTER-EGO WAS NOT A MERE "GHOST" OR "SPIRIT"... IT WAS FLESH AND BLOOD, AND THIS BEING THE CASE, IT WOULD HAVE TO EAT..



IT'S COMING AROUND!

YES, IT SEEMS TO BE SITTING UP!

IT THEN FED IT SOME SOUP FROM A BOWL, AND IT WAS UNCANNY TO WATCH IT DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR. THE CREATURE SEEMED CALM AND COOPERATIVE...



SEEMS TO BE PRETTY TAME NOW.

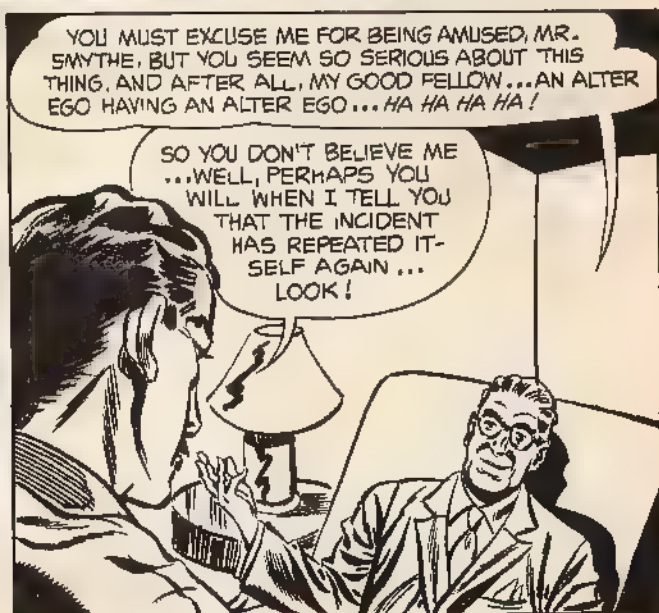
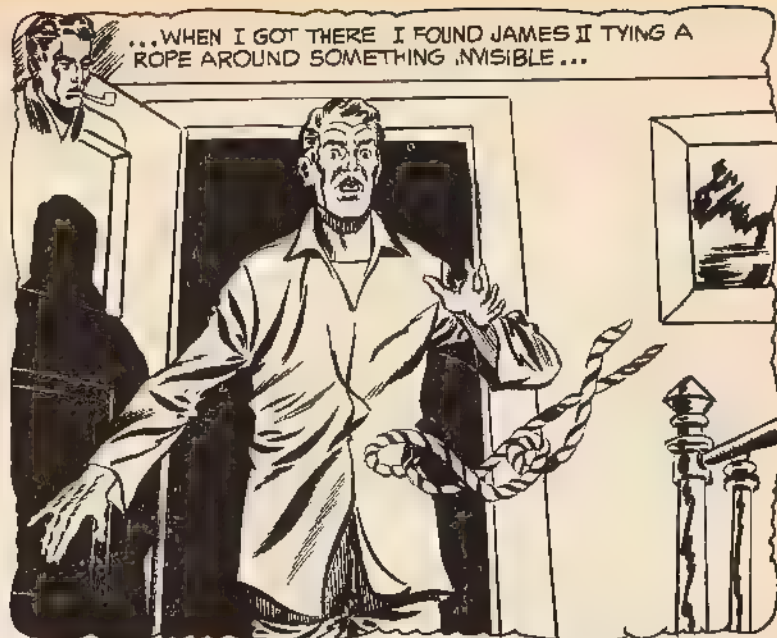
YES... I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SAFE TO UNTIE ITS HANDS!

BEFORE LONG I REALIZED THAT I HAD FOUND A FAITHFUL, EXTRAORDINARY SERVANT... AN EXACT COUNTERPART OF MYSELF... SENSITIVE TO MY EVERY WISH AND DESIRE. IT IS OBEYANT, LOYAL, AND NOT POSSESSING THE POWER OF SPEECH COMPLETELY UNOBTUSIVE! I'VE EVEN NAMED IT **JAMES II**!



YOU DON'T SEEM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS, ER, HALLUCINATION, MR. SMYTHE. JUST WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME?





THE DOCTOR TURNED, AND WHAT HE SAW WAS MORE THAN ANY PSYCHIATRIST COULD BE EXPECTED TO BEAR...





FROM OUT OF THE PITCH-BLACK NIGHT COMES A CRY...A CALL...IT'S TONE'S DEMANDING COMPELLING!  
AND NOT FAR OFF LORNA STARS IN HER SLEEP...HER PULSE QUICKENS--THE BLOOD RACES WILDLY  
THROUGH HER LOVELY BODY AS SHE RISES TO ANSWER THE CALL OF HER MASTER--THE CALL OF...

# THE GORILLA



IN A LITTLE APARTMENT OVERLOOKING THE STATE ZOOLOGICAL PARK, A YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE HAS JUST FINISHED UNPACKING ---

OH, RALPH ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK--REMEMBER? I HOPE OUR NEIGHBORS, THE ANIMALS DON'T KEEP LONG HOURS! I LIKE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT!

PARING AS SOON AS WE'RE SETTLED HERE WE MUST VISIT THE ZOO!

SORT OF PAY OUR RESPECTS TO OUR NEIGHBORS EH?-- OKAY AS SOON AS WE'RE SETTLED!





THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, THE NEWLYNEDS FOUND THEIR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE ZOO --

ISN'T IT FASCINATING? ALL THESE ANIMALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD --!

AND SOME SMELLS FROM OUT OF THIS WORLD.. PHEW!.. LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE!



..AND INEVITABLY THEY REACHED THE MONKEY HOUSE--

OH, RALPH- WHAT A TREMENDOUS BEAST!

COME ON -- I'D RATHER LOOK AT THE CHIMPS - THEY'RE FUNNIER -



BUT LORNA COULD NOT TEAR HER EYES FROM THE HUGE BLACK GORILLA! FASCINATED SHE STARED AT THE CREATURE- OVERCOME BY THE AURA OF SHEER POWER THAT EKUDED FROM ITS MASSIVE FRAME! HER ENTIRE BEING TREMBLED AS THE BRUTE'S BEADY, HYPNOTIC GAZE ENVELOPED HER, HELD HER ---

HE'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T HE--?

YES, MY DEAR -- AND HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TEN MEN!



MEN TEND TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT THE APES ARE THEIR BROTHERS-- THEIR SUPERIOR BROTHERS! FOR THE APE IS SURELY THE MORE POWERFUL, THE MORE GRACEFUL, THE MORE MAGNIFICENT!

YES, YES, -- HE IS MAGNIFICENT!



THE KEEPER WENT ON! HE SPOKE WITH PASSION OF THE WONDERFUL APES -- OF THEIR PRONESS THEIR STRENGTH AND ESPECIALLY OF THE GORILLA KING OF THE PRIMATES --- THE MOST SUPERIOR OF ALL GOD'S CREATURES! LORNA LISTENED ENTRANCED -- WHEN SUDDENLY RALPH BROKE IN ---

COME ON, HONEY, -- WE STILL HAVEN'T SEEN THE LIONS!

WHAT? OH, YES, RALPH--

GOODBYE, MY LOVELY --! YOU MUST COME AND VISIT US AGAIN SOON!





THAT NIGHT LORNA SLEPT UNEASILY. HER DREAMS WERE FILLED WITH SCENES OF THE JUNGLE AND CRIES OF WILD BEASTS!



THE FOLLOWING DAY AFTER RALPH HAD LEFT FOR HIS OFFICE SOME IMPETUS DREN LORNA BACK TO THE ZOO -- BACK TO THE MONKEY HOUSE -- BACK TO THE **GORILLA!**

LOOK, CHONGA - THE GOLDEN ONE HAS RETURNED! SHE HAS COME BACK TO FEAST HER EYES ON YOUR MAGNIFICENCE!



THE MILLING, CHATTERING CROWDS PASSED THROUGH THE BUILDING, STOPPING MOMENTARILY TO STARE AT THE CAGED ANIMALS, MAKING THEIR INANE REMARKS AND PASSING ON -- OBLIVIOUS TO THE WEIRD DRAMA TAKING PLACE BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES --

OH, MOMMY, LOOK AT THE C'ZILLA! ISN'T HE FIERCE? WHAT'S HE LOOKING AT?

WHO KNOWS -- COME, LET'S LOOK AT THE CUTE LITTLE MONKEYS!



FOR HOURS THE CREATURE OF THE JUNGLE AND THE BEAUTIFUL LORNA STARED INTO EACH OTHER'S EYES... SILENTLY... INTENTLY... SUDDENLY A BELL RANG, BREAKING THE SPELL!

GOOD HEAVENS -- IT'S CLOSING TIME -- I'VE BEEN HERE ALL DAY!



WHEN LORNA RETURNED HOME, SHE FOUND RALPH WAITING FOR HER IN THE APARTMENT --

HI, HONEY -- WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? HOW ABOUT A KISS FOR YOUR HARD WORKING HUSBAND?

PLEASE, RALPH -- DON'T! I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!



NIGHT FELL AND A QUIET PEACE FELL OVER THE CITY. BUT THERE WAS NO PEACE FOR LORNA -- A VOICE KEPT CRYING OUT TO HER -- RINGING IN HER BRAIN -- CALLING -- CALLING --

I MUST GO TO HIM -- I MUST!



LORNA - WHAT IS IT? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

SHE DOESN'T HEAR ME! SHE'S IN A DAZE!



A SENSE OF TERRIBLE DANGER STIRRED RALPH INTO ACTION --

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME I MIGHT BE NEEDING THIS! --- SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON!





RALPH FOLLOWED HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE -- DIRECTLY TO HER DESTINATION!

THE ZOO... THE MONKEY HOUSE! WHAT THE DEVIL --!



GONE -- SHE'S **DISAPPEARED!** BUT WHERE COULD SHE -- THAT DOOR -- SHE MUST HAVE GONE IN THERE --



THE BEWILDERED HUSBAND DESCENDED THE DARK STAIRWAY INTO THE BASEMENT BELOW AND WHEN HE REACHED THE BOTTOM A STRANGE AND HORRIFYING SPECTACLE GREETED HIS EYES --

GOOD GRIEF! I MUST BE DREAMING -- THIS **CAN'T** BE REAL!

I HAVE COME ON GLORIOUS KING -- LORD OF MY HEART -- KEEPER OF MY SOUL --

HEH-HEH-HEH -- YOU SEE, CHONGA -- I TOLD YOU SHE WOULD COME!



WHAT A HANDSOME COUPLE YOU MAKE -- YOU WERE DESTINED TO BE **MATES!** SHE IS YOURS CHONGA -- TAKE HER FOR **YOUR WIFE!**

THE APE ROSE AND APPROACHED LORNA -- IT WAS MORE THAN THE TERROR-STROKEN HUSBAND COULD BEAR!

STOP -- YOU UGLY, FILTHY BRUTE -- DON'T TOUCH HER --

WHAT -- ?





HATE GLARED  
OUT FROM MANY  
PAIRS OF EYES,  
BUT THE GREAT-  
EST HATE ISSUED  
FROM THE EYES  
OF THE WOMAN  
HE LOVED ---

HOW DARE YOU SPEAK TO CHONGA,  
THE MAGNIFICENT, YOU **PUNY**  
**WEAKLING!** CHONGA WILL  
**TEAR YOU TO SHREDS!**

KILL HIM, CHONGA -- HE IS YOUR **ENEMY** ...  
**YOUR RIVAL! KILL HIM! KILL HIM!**



THE SIGHT OF HIS GOLDEN-HAIRED WIFE  
CLINGING TO THAT BLACK UGLY BEAST  
WAS TOO MUCH FOR RALPH!

LORNA -- LORNA! YOU DON'T KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! I'M RALPH,  
YOUR HUSBAND!



BUT AS HE  
REACHED OUT  
FOR HER THE  
GORILLA PULL-  
ED HER ROUGHLY  
OUT OF REACH,  
ITS POWERFUL  
FINGERS  
DIGGING HARD  
INTO THE  
SOFT, WHITE  
FLESH! A MIGHTY  
ROAR  
ISSUED  
FROM  
ITS  
HUGE  
CHEST! ...



SLOWLY ...  
MENACINGLY, THE  
APE ADVANCED --  
THE AUDIENCE  
OF BABBOONS  
AND MONKEYS  
DANCED  
AND  
CHATTERED  
EXCITEDLY,  
FILLING  
THE STONE  
CAVERN WITH  
A HORRIBLE  
CACOPHONY  
OF  
SOUND ---

GET HIM,  
CHONGA --  
KILL HIM!



AND THEN, JUST AS THE ENORMOUS BRUTE  
RAISED ITS HAIRY ARMS TOWARDS THE  
HORROR-STRIKEN HUMAN, RALPH  
SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THE GUN IN  
HIS POCKET! THERE WAS A DEAF-  
ENING EXPLOSION - FOLLOWED BY A SCREAM!





THE KEEPER SEEING HIS PET KILLED BEFORE HIS EYES, WENT BERSERK -- WITH A CRY OF ANGUISH HE LEAPT AT RALPH'S THROAT --

YOU'VE KILLED HIM - YOU'VE DESTROYED THE MAGNIFICENT CHONGA -- I'LL --

KEEP BACK!

BLAM



FOR A MOMENT THERE WAS DEAD SILENCE, BROKEN ONLY BY THE SHUFFLING-PADED FEET OF THE OTHER APES AGAINST THE STONE FLOOR AS THEY COVERED BACK AWAY FROM THE MAN HOLDING THE SMOKING DEADLY GUN! SUDDENLY THERE WAS A SHRILL CRY -- A CRY THAT WAS MUSIC TO RALPH'S EARS!

RALPH - OH, RALPH! WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?



HE GRABBED HIS WIFE IN HIS ARMS -- EMBRACED HER FOR A MOMENT AND THEN TURNED, PULLING HER WITH HIM!

C'MON -- LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



WHEN THEY REACHED THEIR APARTMENT THEY BOTH FELL IMMEDIATELY INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP!



THE NEXT MORNING, LORNA AWOKED WITH A FRIGHTENED START --

OH, RALPH, I HAD THE MOST HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE -- THERE WAS A GORILLA AND --

THAT'S STRANGE! I HAD THE SAME DREAM!



SUDDENLY RALPH'S GAZE FELL ON LORNA'S ARM -- THERE WAS A CLEARLY DISCERNIBLE BRUISE, BLUE AND SWOLLEN -- AS THOUGH POWERFUL FINGERS HAD CLUTCHED IT --



-- THE FINGERS, PERHAPS, OF A GORILLA!



END



THE FREEZING NORTH... WHERE MEN BATTLE THE WEATHER AS WELL AS THE ELEMENTS LOOKING FOR THE SECRET OF THE AGES... UNTIL FINALLY...

# THEY SAW THE LIGHT



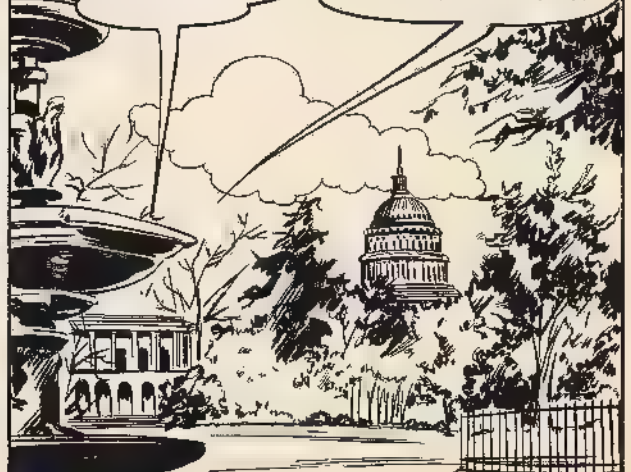
IT'S UP IN THIS AREA, GIL... REPORTS KEEP FILTERING BACK TO US ABOUT VAST QUANTITIES OF URANIUM TO BE FOUND THERE. YOU KNOW WHAT SUCH A SUPPLY COULD MEAN... AND WE WANT YOU TO FIND IT.

I UNDERSTAND, SIR... WHEN DO YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE?

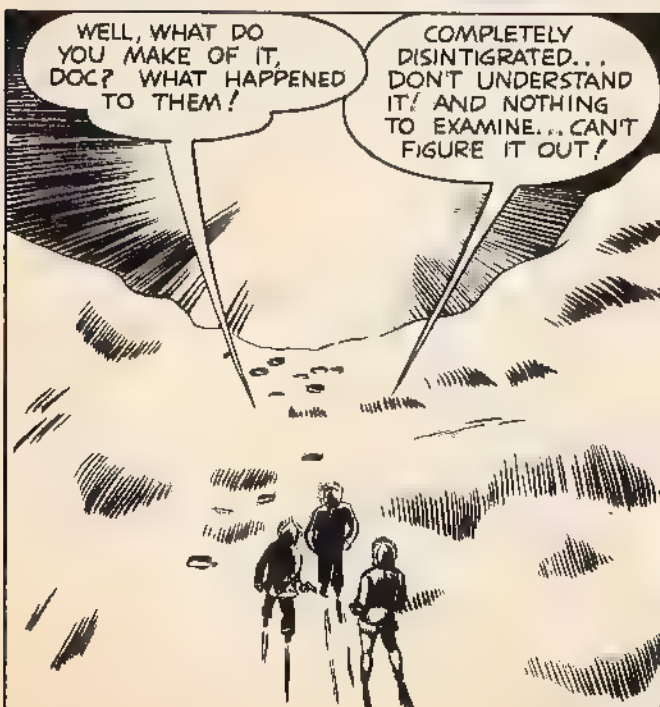
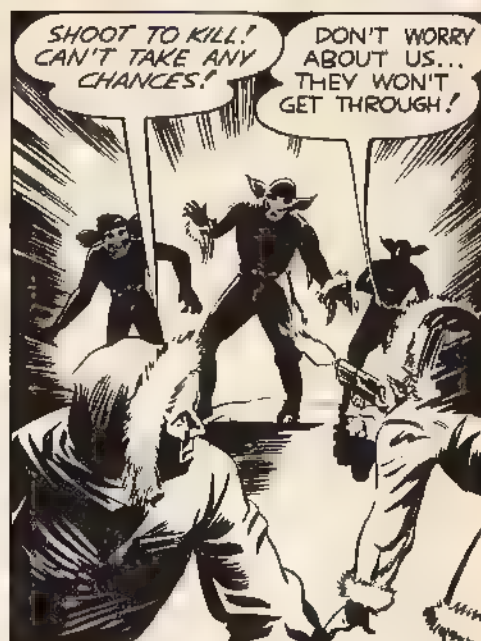
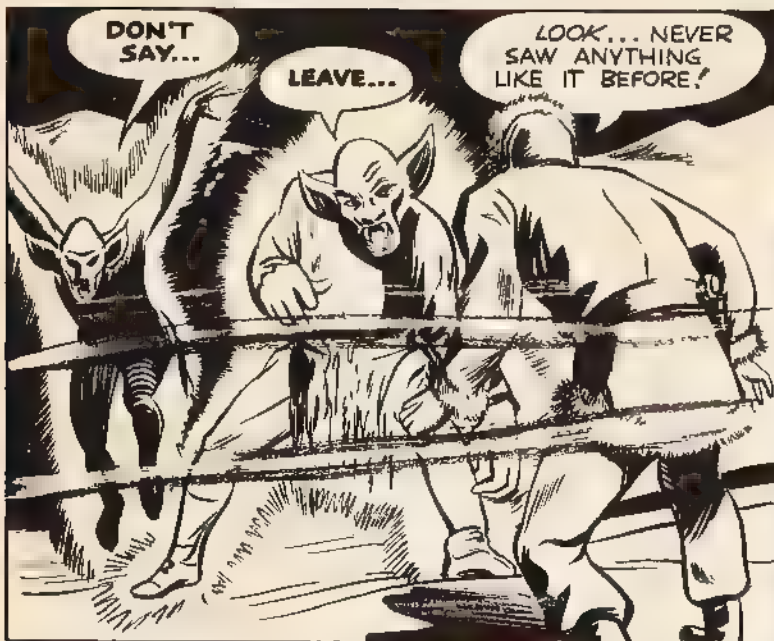
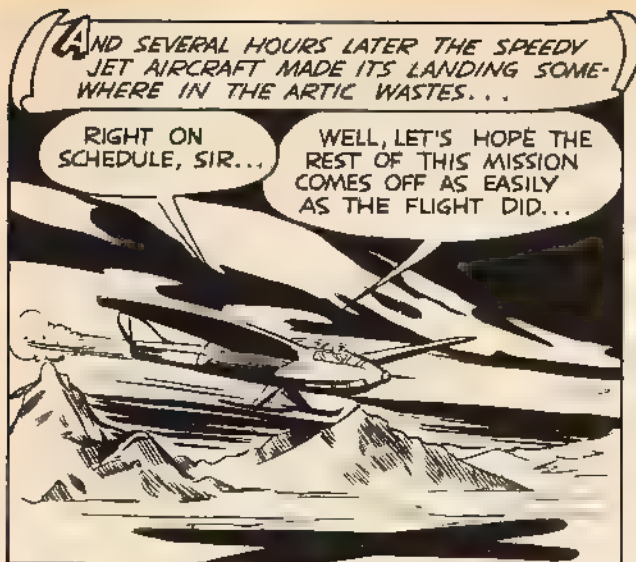


IMMEDIATELY! YOUR CREW AND SHIP ARE WAITING FOR YOU TO COME ABOARD!

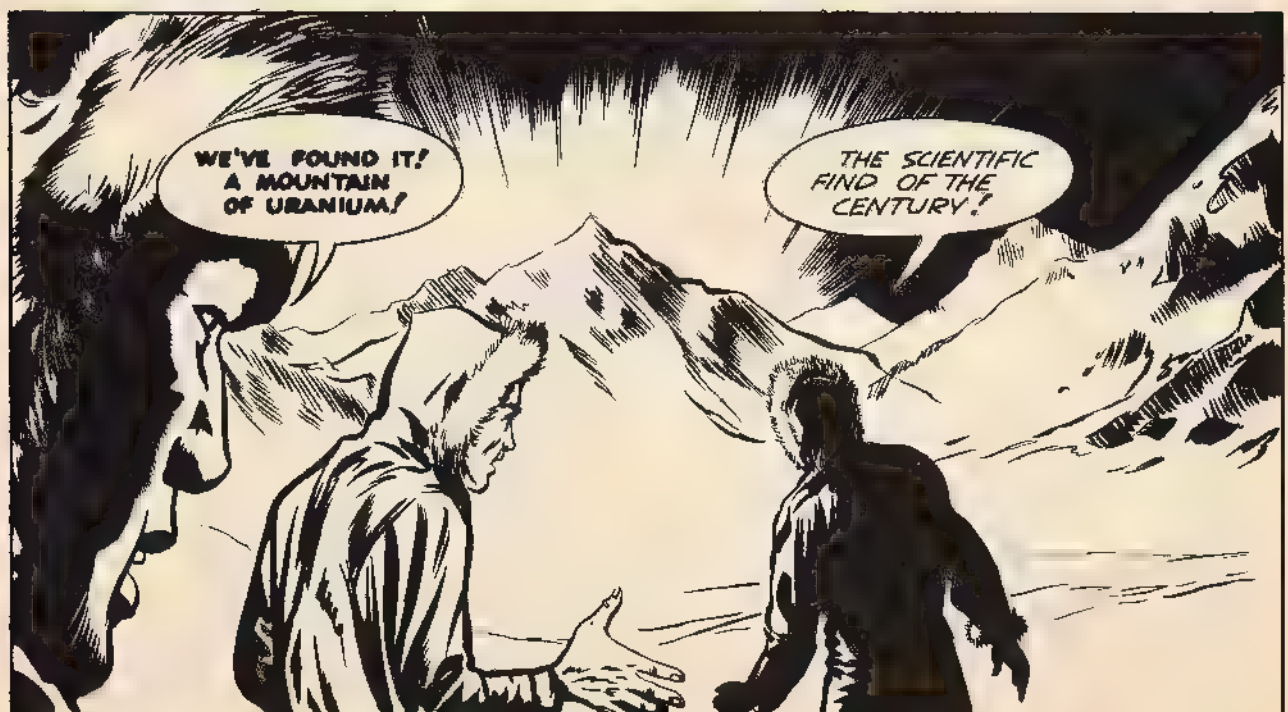
GOOD! THEN WE'LL BE TAKING OFF AS SOON AS I PUT SOME AFFAIRS IN ORDER!



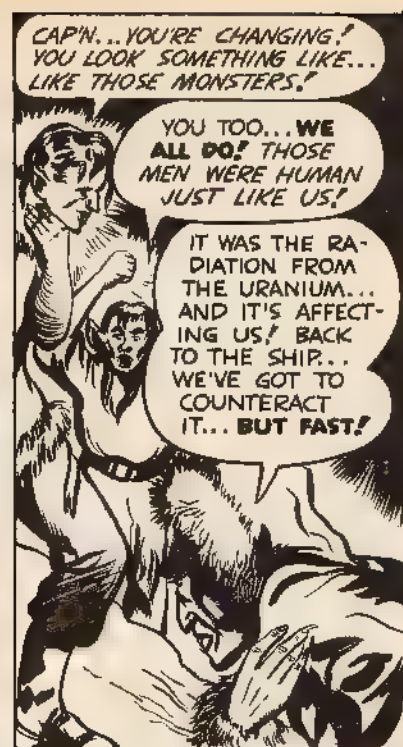
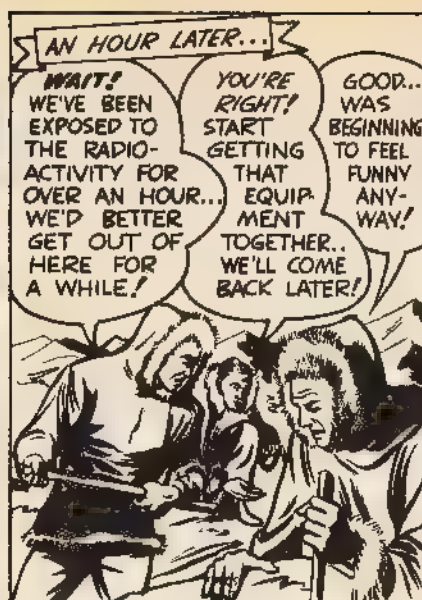












THE END



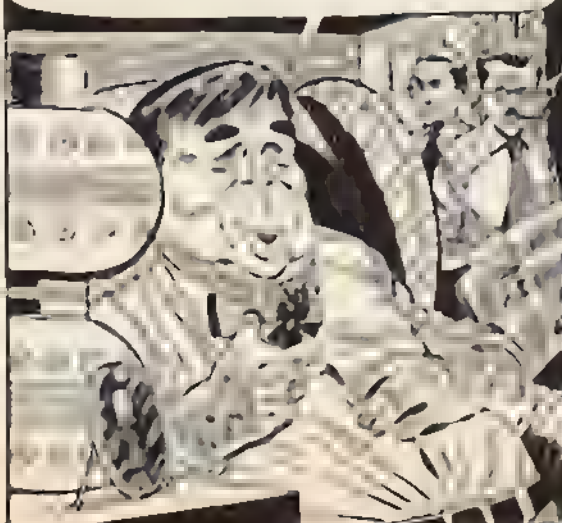
EACH MAN HAS HIS OWN HOBBY WITH SOME IT'S SPORTS, OTHERS TROPICAL FISH WHILE SOME GO IN FOR PHOTOGRAPHY BUT HUGO BRANDT LIVED FOR JUST ONE THING TO EAT! SET SOME ROAST BEEF IN FRONT OF HIM AND HE WAS IN HEAVEN FOOD WAS HIS WHOLE LIFE! THAT'S WHY HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SATURDAY THAT WAS THE DAY OF

# THE PICNIC!



HUGO BRANDT LIVED IN A BOARDING HOUSE, ONE WHICH, OF COURSE, SPECIALIZED IN GOOD FOOD. FOR THE OTHER MEN WHO LIVED THERE, FOOD WAS A PASSION, BUT WHAT HUGO BRANDT CARED FOR WAS JUST LIKE THEY DID!

GEE, STILL TEN MINUTES TO DINNER, AND I'M STARVING... GOOD THING I HAD THIS CANDY BAR WITH ME! MUNCH--MUNCH!



OKAY EVERYBODY, DINNER IS SERVED!

GOOD! GOOD! WHAT KEPT YOU SO LONG ANYWAY?







CHOMP--CHOMP...PASS THE ROLLS...  
MUNCH...MUNCH...AND THE POTATOES...  
SLURP--SLURP...MORE MEAT...CHOMP--  
CHOMP...WHAT'S FOR DESSERT...ANOTHER  
HELPING, PLEASE...



HUGO, YOU'RE A PIG!  
WHAT WILL OUR NEW  
BOARDER THINK OF US  
AFTER THE EXHIBITION!  
ESPECIALLY SINCE  
YOU DIDN'T LEAVE  
ONE MORSEL  
FOR HER!

NEW BOARDER! OH,  
I'M SORRY, MISS...  
MY TAPE WORM  
JUST RAN AWAY  
WITH ITSELF!



OH THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I WASN'T  
HUNGRY ANYWAY! BY THE WAY,  
WE'D BETTER INTRODUCE  
OURSELVES, I'M MOIRA HILL.

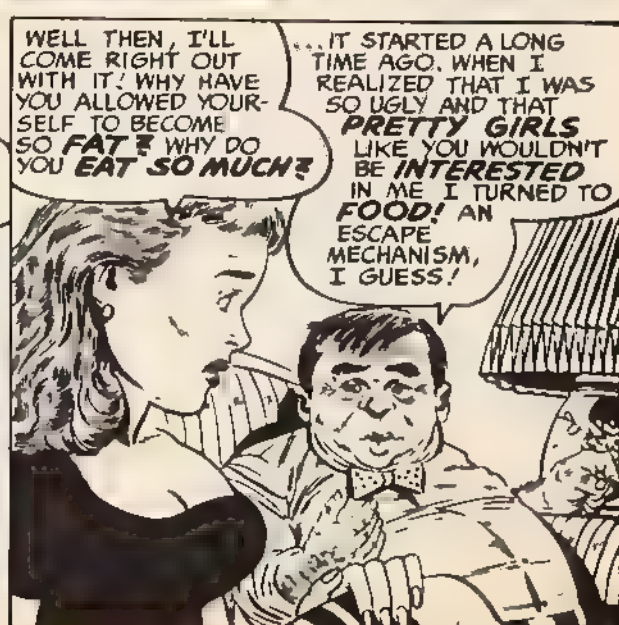
GLAD TO MEET  
YOU, MISS  
HILL. I'M  
HUGO  
BRANDT.



A SHORT TIME LATER THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN  
THE TWO HAD BLOSSOMED...APPARENTLY,

MY, BUT YOU'VE HAD AN INTERESTING  
LIFE, HUGO. YOU CERTAINLY ARE A  
MAN OF MANY TALENTS! BUT ER,  
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY  
THIS **WITHOUT INSULTING**  
**YOU...**

GO RIGHT  
AHEAD,  
MOIRA...  
I KNOW  
**WHAT YOU'RE**  
**GOING TO**  
**SAY ANYWAY!**



WELL THEN, I'LL  
COME RIGHT OUT  
WITH IT: WHY HAVE  
YOU ALLOWED YOUR-  
SELF TO BECOME  
SO **FAT**? WHY DO  
YOU **EAT SO MUCH**?

...IT STARTED A LONG  
TIME AGO, WHEN I  
REALIZED THAT I WAS  
SO UGLY AND THAT  
**PRETTY GIRLS**  
LIKE YOU WOULDN'T  
BE **INTERESTED**  
IN ME. I TURNED TO  
**FOOD!** AN  
ESCAPE  
MECHANISM,  
I GUESS!





ENOUGH OF ME...  
WHAT BRINGS YOU  
TO THIS SMALL  
CITY?

SOMETHING THAT MIGHT  
INTEREST YOU VERY MUCH...  
**I'VE BOUGHT A  
RESTAURANT.**



NO! TELL ME MORE  
ABOUT IT!

BETTER THAN THAT, WHY  
DON'T YOU COME DOWN TO  
DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT  
AFTER EVERYBODY'S GONE!  
THAT WAY WE CAN, ER, GET TO  
KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER!



**NOW THAT  
THE TWO OF  
THEM  
WERE ON  
COMMON  
GROUND  
THEIR  
FRIENDSHIP  
DEVELOPED  
EVEN FASTER,  
BESIDES ISN'T  
THE WAY  
TO A MAN'S  
HEART  
THROUGH  
HIS  
STOMACH?**  
HUGO  
WAITED IM-  
PATIENTLY,  
BUT  
FINALLY  
CAME THE  
NIGHT...

CHOMP... CHOMP... THIS  
IS MARVELOUS... MUNCH--  
MUNCH... THE BEST FOOD  
I'VE EATEN IN YEARS...

I'M GLAD YOU LIKED  
IT, HUGO... NOW HERE'S  
YOUR DESSERT... I'LL  
BE RIGHT BACK, I WANT  
TO CHANGE INTO SOME-  
THING MORE  
COMFORTABLE!

**A SHORT TIME LATER, MOIRA RETURNED... A  
DIFFERENT MOIRA. AND IN SUITABLE SURROUNDINGS  
HUGO WAS QUICK TO RESPOND...**

MOIRA, YOU'RE, YOU'RE...  
WONDERFUL! A BEAUTIFUL  
WOMAN... AND ONE WHO  
DOESN'T LAUGH AT  
MY UGLINESS!

I HAVE LEARNED ABOUT  
BEAUTY. ONE CAN'T JUDGE  
A BOOK BY ITS COVER!



THEN YOU MEAN...  
YOU MEAN I STAND A  
CHANCE WITH YOU?

OF COURSE YOU DO... ER,  
DARLING... I FELT THIS  
THE MOMENT WE MET!





A SHORT TIME LATER...

I HAVE A WONDERFUL IDEA, HUGO. LET'S CELEBRATE WITH A PICNIC! I KNOW A WONDERFUL SPOT WE CAN GO TO NEXT SATURDAY--A PLACE WE CAN BE **ALONE!** AND I'LL PACK THE **LUNCH...** I'LL BRING EVERYTHING YOU LIKE!

A PICNIC! WITH A LUNCH-- EVERYTHING I WANT-- THAT'LL BE-- BE LIKE HEAVEN!

THE DAYS SEEMED TO DRAG, BUT FINALLY IT WAS SATURDAY. SATURDAY, WHICH MEANT... THE PICNIC AND MOIRA... AND LOVE... AND FOOD!

HURRY WITH THE FOOD BASKET, DARLING-- I'VE GOT EVERYTHING ALL SET UP!

DON'T BE IMPATIENT-- I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!

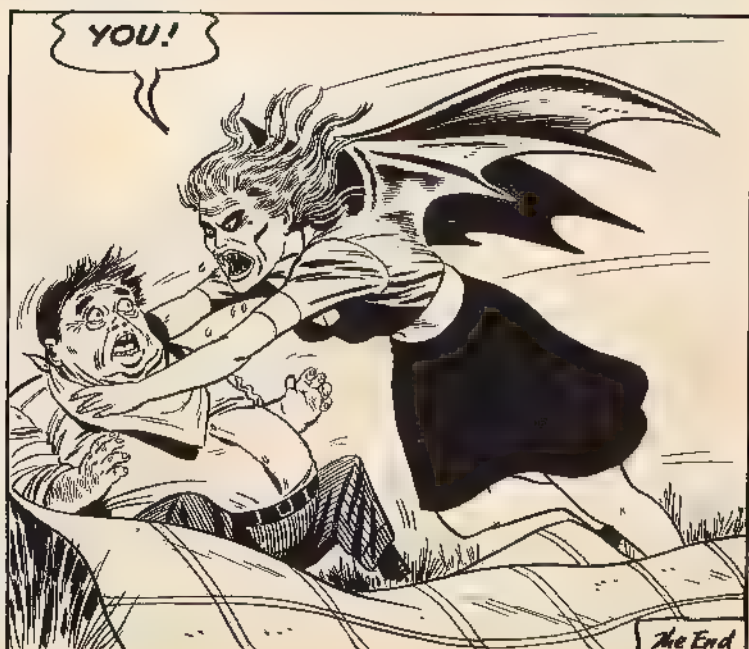


HUGO CLOSED HIS EYES AND ENVISIONED THE LUNCH BOX THAT MOIRA HAD PACKED. IT WOULD REALLY BE SOMETHING... THE KIND OF A MEAL THAT HE ALWAYS DREAMED ABOUT-- FROM SOUP TO NUTS!



FINALLY HUGO HEARD MOIRA AND EXPECTANTLY HE OPENED HIS EYES... BUT NO FOOD!

BUT THERE'S NOTHING HERE! NO FOOD! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO EAT?



The End



MYSTERY IS WHERE YOU FIND IT... YOU ONLY HAVE TO LOOK AROUND YOU AND THERE IT IS! JOSH HENDRICKS WAS A MINEROLOGIST... STUDIED ROCKS AND TERRAIN... SOUNDS DULL, DOESN'T IT? MAYBE SO... BUT JOSH HENDRICKS FOUND DIFFERENTLY...

# IN THE SNAKE PIT!

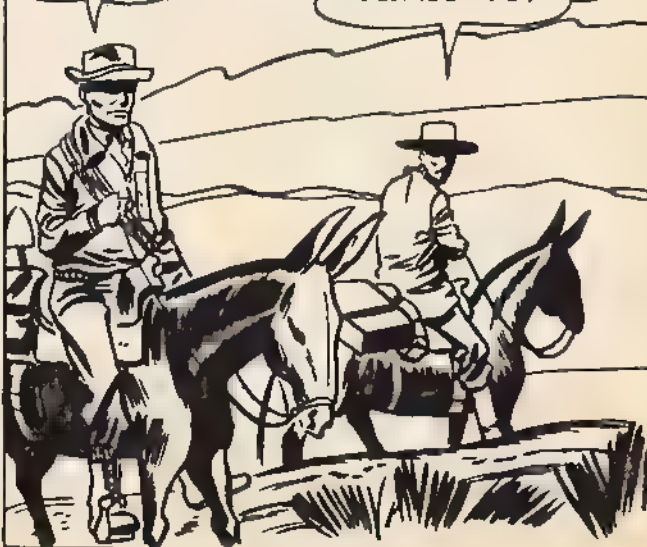


JOSH HIRED AN OLD PROSPECTOR TO TAKE HIM OUT INTO THE TERRITORY... BUT HE HAD SOME MISGIVINGS WHEN HE SAW WHAT WAS TO TAKE HIM OUT INTO THE DESERT...

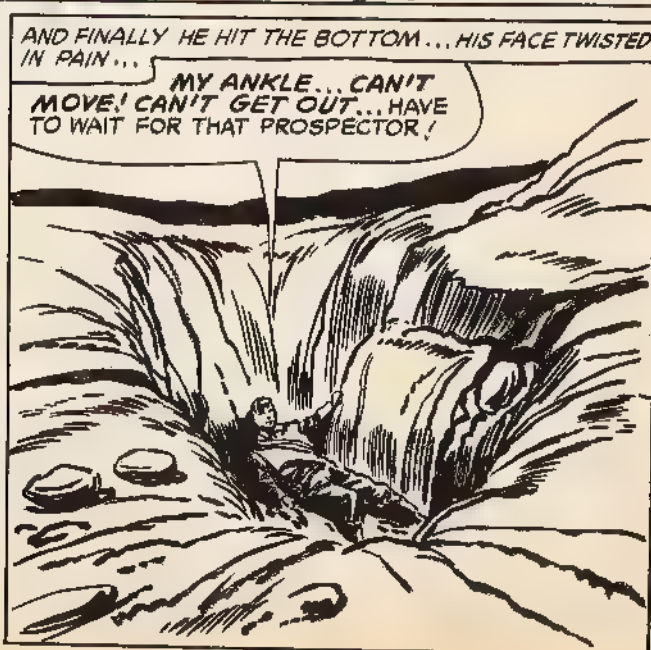
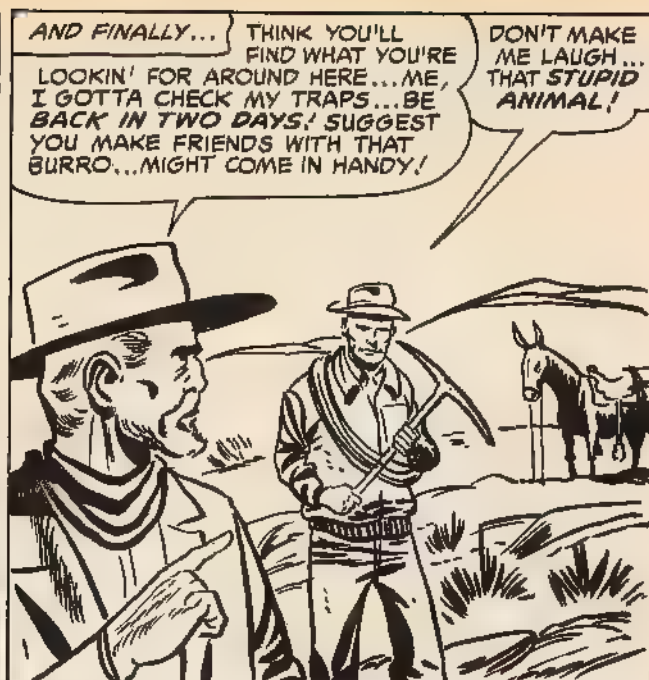
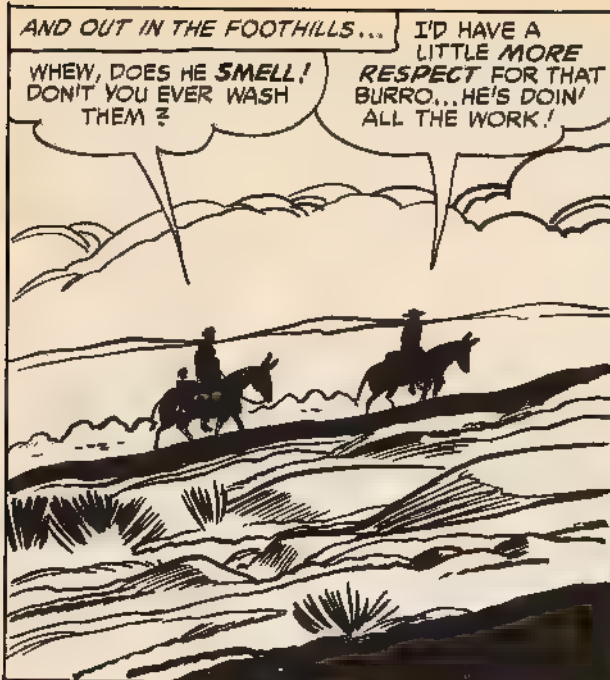


C'MON, STUPID, LET'S GO!

WOULDN'T MAKE FUN OF HIM, SON... ANIMALS HAVE FEELINGS TOO!









HE LAID THERE WONDERING HOW LONG BEFORE THE PROSPECTOR WOULD RETURN...TWO OR THREE DAYS HE HAD SAID! BUT THEN SUDDENLY HE FROZE...HE HAD BIGGER PROBLEMS TO FACE...IMMEDIATELY!



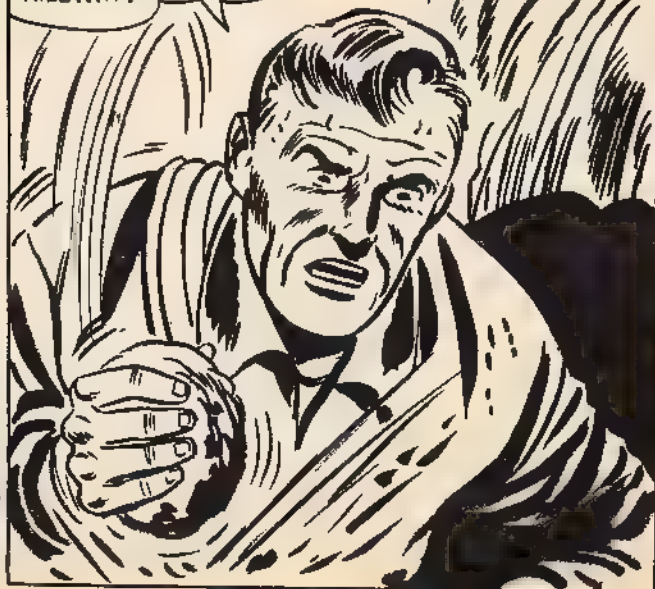
HE HAD FALLEN INTO A DEN OF RATTLES! AND THE FALL HAD BOTHERED THEM...DISTURBED THEM! THEY SENSED THE PRESENCE OF DANGER IN THEIR PIT...AND WERE GETTING READY TO BATTLE THE INTRUDER...AND JOSH LAY HELPLESS!



SUDDENLY ONE OF THEM STRUCK...BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH!



KILL IT! GOTTA... KILL...IT!





HE HAD TO GET OUT... AND FAST... HE COULDN'T WAIT TWO DAYS... IT HAD TO BE NOW... OR NEVER!

HELP! HELP! I'M DOWN HERE! HELP!



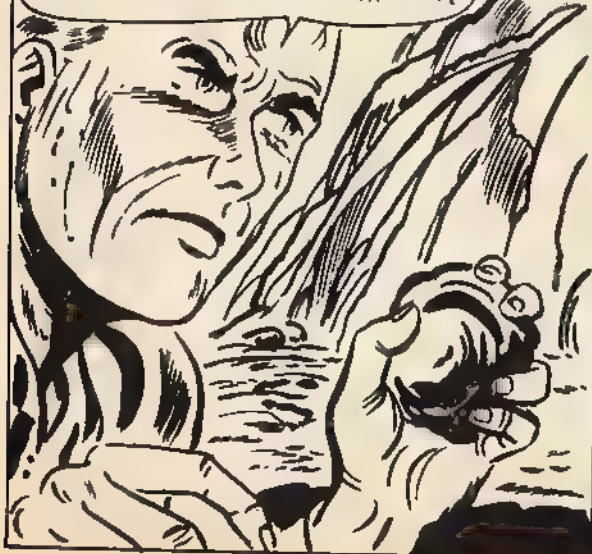
HIS YELLING HAD ONE EFFECT... IT DIRECTED THE RATT- LERS TOWARD THE INTRUDER... AND SLOWLY THEY BE- GAN GLIDING TOWARD HIM... CLOSER ... CLOSER ...



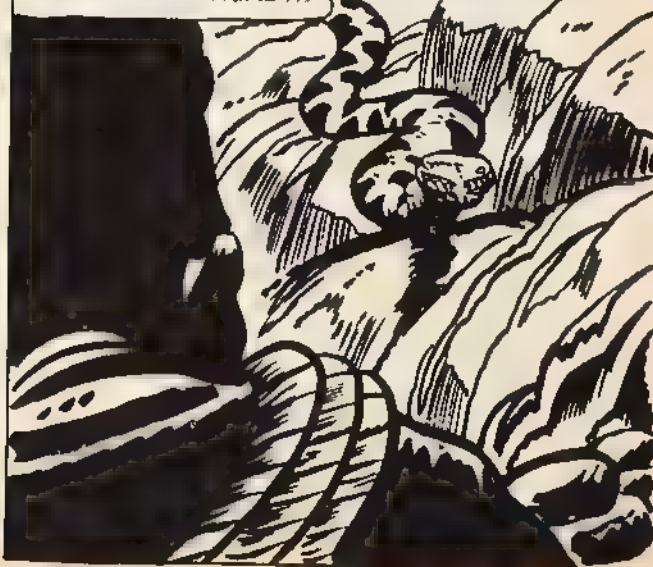
TIME AND TIME AGAIN HIS ROCKS FOUND THE TARGET... AND BEAT OFF THE RATT- LERS... AND NOW THE PIT WAS ALIVE WITH THE DRUM OF THEIR RATTLES...



AND FINALLY... LAST ROCK... CAN'T... GET... ANY MORE... TOO... FAR... AWAY!



AND THEN HE SAW IT... THE GRAND DADDY OF ALL THE RATT- LERS... GLIDING DOWN THE LEDGE TOWARD HIM... PREPARING TO STRIKE...

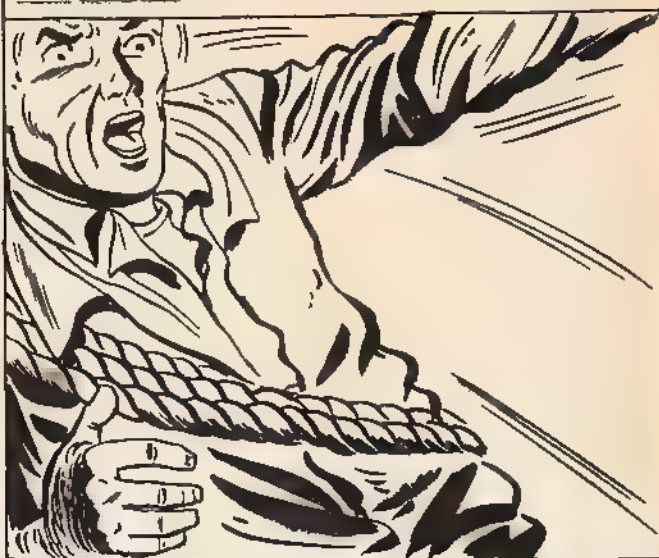




PANIC GUIDED HIS AIM... AND IT WAS NO GOOD! HE HAD MISSED!



THE RATTLER LUNGED . AND STRUCK JOSH'S SHIRT! BUT HE PULLED AWAY IN TIME, AND HE WAS SAFE.. BUT ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!! FOR JOSH KNEW THE RATTLER WOULD STRIKE AGAIN!!



HE WATCHED IT COIL ...THE RATTLER'S BUZZING AND KNEW THAT HE HAD BEEN LUCKY THE FIRST TIME... HIS LUCK WAS RUNNING OUT!



HE SPREAD-EAGLED HIMSELF AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE PIT... PANIC AND FEAR ETCHED HIS FEATURES ...FOR HE KNEW THAT THE RATTLER WAS GETTING READY TO STRIKE AGAIN!



AND SUDDENLY FROM ABOVE ...



HE LOOKED UP AND SAW THE BURRO...THE STUPID ANIMAL ...AND KNEW THAT THE BEAST HAD FOR THE MOMENT DELAYED THE RATTLER... BUT ONLY FOR THE MOMENT!

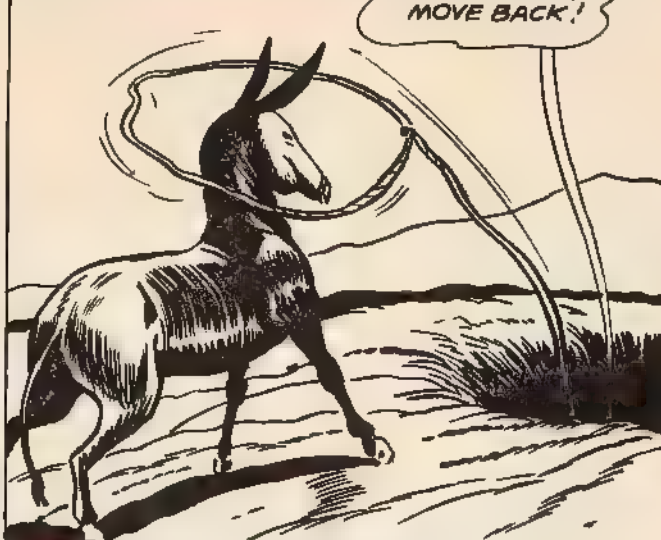




AS IF HYPNOTIZED HE WATCHED THE SNAKE RE-COIL...GET READY AGAIN...AND KNEW THAT HE HAD TO DO SOMETHING FAST...WHILE HE STILL HAD THE CHANCE!

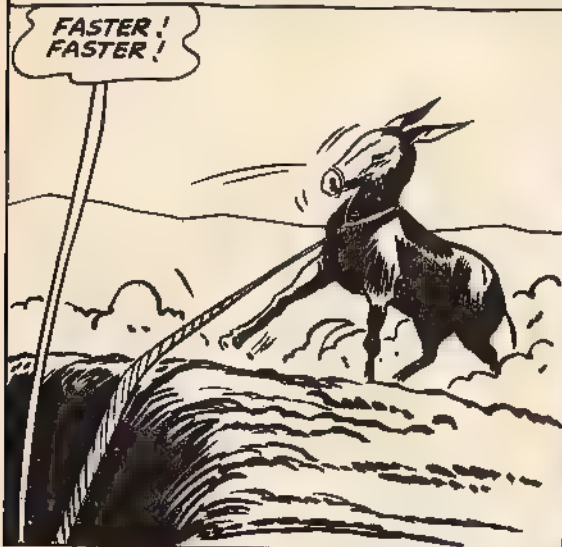


IT WAS A LONG CHANCE...BUT THE ONLY ONE HE HAD...AND LUCKILY THE ROPE CAUGHT ON THE FIRST CAST!



MOVE BACK!  
MOVE BACK!

AND THE DUMB BEAST SEEMED TO UNDER-  
STAND...FOR IT STRUGGLED AND STRAINED  
UNDER THE LOAD...BUT MOVED BACKWARDS!



FASTER!  
FASTER!

AND NOW JOSH WAS OFF THE GROUND...MOVING TO-  
WARD SAFETY...AND IT WAS AS IF THE RATTLER KNEW  
THAT HE WAS BEING CHEATED...FOR IT STRUCK SAVAGE-  
LY...WILDLY...



HE LAY ON THE TOP OF THE LEDGE TRYING TO  
CATCH HIS BREATH...WONDERING IN THE FACT  
THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE...KNOWING HOW  
CLOSE HE HAD COME TO BEING A VICTIM OF  
THE SNAKE PIT...



... ALSO KNOWING THAT HE OWED HIS LIFE TO THE  
BURRO...A BURRO THAT HE HAD LAUGHED AT...  
RIDICULED...BUT THAT HAD CHANGED...NOW HE  
WOULD TREAT IT DIFFERENTLY...WITH RESPECT!



The End





MEET JOHN KING, RENOWNED HOLLYWOOD DIRECTOR! JOHN HAD ONE OBSESSION IN LIFE... THE WINNING OF ACADEMY AWARDS! THOSE GOLDEN STATUETTES HAVE BECOME HIS GOD! BUT JOHN HAS THE ANSWER... THE SECRET TO SUCCESS! **EMOTIONS! LOVE! HATE! POWER! GREED!** HE KNOWS THEM ALL AND CAN GET HIS ACTORS TO PORTRAY THEM! FOR HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF...

# The GAMBIT!

SOON! SOON! ANOTHER ONE!  
AND FOR MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT!  
THEY SAY IT CAN'T BE DONE... BUT  
I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL  
SHOW THEM!



THERE WAS ONE PERSON JOHN KING LOVED TO DISCUSS HIS SUCCESS WITH... THAT WAS HIS PSYCHIATRIST FRIEND, STAN TOWNES! THAT WAS BECAUSE STAN WAS A THEORIST, WHILE JOHN ACTUALLY WORKED AT THE STUDY OF EMOTIONS!

WHAT I  
KNOW ABOUT EMOTIONS,  
DOESN'T COME FROM  
TEXT BOOKS! THAT'S  
WHY I'M A SUCCESS!

BUT JOHN IT'S  
DANGEROUS TO FOOL  
AROUND WITH PEOPLES  
MINDS... WHO ARE YOU  
TO SAY WHAT WILL  
HAPPEN!



BUT I DO KNOW HOW PEOPLE  
WILL REACT! THAT'S WHY I'M  
A TOP DIRECTOR! I CAN  
MAKE ANYONE A STAR,  
JUST BY DIRECTING  
THEIR EMOTIONS TO  
GET WHAT I WANT!

SOME CALL YOU A  
GENIUS! THERE'S AN  
AWFUL THIN LINE  
BETWEEN GENIUS  
AND INSANITY! I WONDER  
ON WHICH SIDE OF  
THE LINE YOU  
BELONG!





TAKE THE CASE OF LINDA LAWRENCE... WHY SHE WAS NOTHING UNTIL SHE MET ME! I TOOK HER OVER... SHE HAD EVERYTHING... LOOKS... CHARM. BRAINS...

YES... SHE HAD EVERYTHING... BUT SHE COULDN'T ACT!

HMM... I THINK YOU'LL DO, LINDA! YOU'RE JUST THE GIRL I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IN MY NEW PICTURE... **LOVERS!** JUST THE TYPE!



OH TYLER, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME NOW... NOT WHEN...

CUT! LINDA YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN LOVE WITH THIS MAN... HE MEANS EVERYTHING TO YOU... DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO ACT WITH A PERSON YOU LOVE? THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY! BE ON THE SET EARLY TOMORROW MORNING!



TRUE SHE COULDN'T ACT... BUT SHE WAS JUST THE TYPE TO

PLAY THIS PART! AND I WOULD SHOW HER... I WOULD GUIDE HER EMOTIONS! IF SHE HAD TO PLAY THE PART OF A GIRL IN LOVE I WOULD TEACH HER HOW. I WOULD MAKE HER FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!

THE CAMPAIGN WAS SIMPLE... BUT EFFECTIVE! AFTER ALL, I'M NOT THE UGLIEST MAN IN THE WORLD! AND AT TIMES I CAN BE QUITE CHARMING... ESPECIALLY WHEN I WANT TO!



THE CAMPAIGN PAID OFF... BUT THEN, I NEVER HAD ANY DOUBTS AS TO ITS SUCCESS...

TO THE BEAUTIFUL LINDA... TO THE GIRL THAT...

YES JOHN, TO THE GIRL THAT WHAT?

TO THE GIRL THAT I LOVE VERY MUCH

OH JOHN! JOHN! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY THAT!

SUCCESS! BUT WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE SUCCEEDED! I PLAYED UPON HER EMOTIONS LIKE A MUSICIAN PLAYS THE SCALE... AND SHE HAD REACTED JUST AS I KNEW SHE WOULD... BY FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME!





**BUT I WASN'T FINISHED... NOT YET! NOW I HAD TO PORTRAY THAT EMOTION ON FILM! AND WHILE LINDA LIVED IN HER DREAM WORLD... A WORLD THAT I HAD PLACED HER ON... I WENT TO WORK! FOR THE MOVIE CAME FIRST... SUCCESS WAS AT MY FINGER TIPS!**

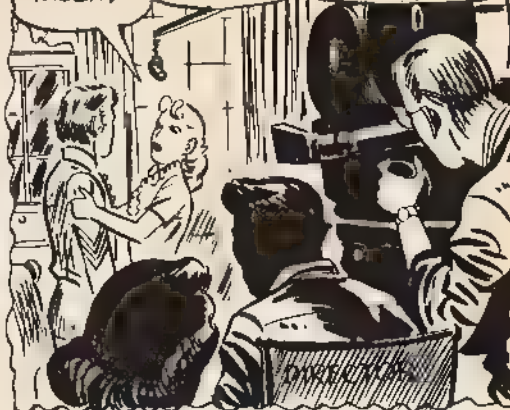
THIS IS THE BIG SCENE, DARLING... THE LOVE SCENE! YOU'VE GOT TO BE CONVINCING TO PUT IT OVER! YOU'VE GOT TO ACT LIKE A WOMAN THAT'S REALLY IN LOVE!

THAT SHOULD BE EASY! I'LL JUST PRETEND THAT IT'S YOU AND THE REST WILL COME NATURALLY! FOR WHO CAN PLAY A WOMAN IN LOVE BETTER THAN I!



IT WAS AMAZING... THE PERFORMANCE STOPPED EVERYONE IN THEIR TRACKS... IT WAS A ONE IN A LIFETIME EVENT... BUT I KNEW IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS... FOR I HAD FIGURED LINDA PERFECTLY!

B-BUT TYLER, YOU... YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME NOW! I... I LOVE YOU SO MUCH! SO VERY MUCH!



**NOW YOU SEE THE SECRET OF JOHN KING'S SUCCESS... AND IT WORKED WITH DEVASTATING RESULTS!**

OF COURSE I WON AN AWARD FOR THAT PRODUCTION... EVEN LINDA WON ONE! BUT WHY SHOULDN'T SHE? SHE WASN'T ACTING, SHE LIVED THAT ROLE! AND I GAVE HER THAT SUCCESS!

MAYBE SO, JOHN... MAYBE SO! BUT WHAT HAPPENED THEN?



WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT HAPPENED THEN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL? SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU, JOHN! REMEMBER? IT'S EASY FOR YOU TO GO AHEAD WITH YOUR NEXT PRODUCTION... BUT WHAT ABOUT LINDA? DOES SHE JUST FORGET ABOUT YOU AND THAT'S ALL?



**BUT JOHN KING HAD ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR LINDA... HE HAD BUILT HER INTO A STAR AND HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP HER THERE! BUT ON HIS TERMS! IF HE COULD MAKE SOMEONE LOVE HIM, IT WOULD BE JUST AS EASY TO MAKE HER HATE HIM! AND THAT'S WHAT HIS NEXT PICTURE WAS ABOUT... AGAIN HE WOULD DIRECT HER EMOTIONS SO THAT HER REACTIONS WOULD BE EXACTLY AS HE PLANNED!**

THE CAMPAIGN STARTED SLOWLY... BUT THE FIRST SEEDS WERE BEGINNING TO BLOSSOM...

NOT HERE, LINDA... IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY! BESIDES, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

BUT DARLING, YOU NEVER OBJECTED BEFORE... I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANY MORE!



THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING... THERE WERE PLENTY OF WAYS TO ADD FUEL TO THE FIRE!

HE'S OVER TWO HOURS LATE... WHY DOESN'T HE CALL! WHAT'S HAPPENING BETWEEN US! THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS WEEK HE'S DONE THIS! I'LL GO TO THAT PARTY MYSELF!





AND AT THE PARTY, JOHN ONLY TWISTED THE KNIFE DEEPER INTO THE WOUND!

IT'S JOHN... AND WITH THAT NEW STARLET! WHY IS HE DOING THIS TO ME! WHY!



THE INCIDENTS APPEARED INNOCENT ENOUGH... HOW WAS LINDA TO KNOW THEY WERE MERELY PART OF A DIABOLICAL PLOT!

SAY JOHN, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND LINDA LAWRENCE?

NOTHING... JUST AN INCIDENT IN MY YOUNG LIFE! AN INCIDENT LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

OH NO! HE CAN'T MEAN THAT... HE CAN'T!



BUT LINDA DIDN'T GIVE UP SO EASILY... SHE HAD TO FIND OUT FOR HERSELF... WHICH WAS EXACTLY WHAT JOHN WANTED!

WHY LINDA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

SINCE YOU WON'T SEE ME, I CAME TO SEE YOU! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!



JOHN HAD PLAYED HIS CARDS WELL... LINDA WAS ACTING AND REACTING EXACTLY AS HE KNEW SHE WOULD!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN... WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

BUT YOU USED TO LOVE ME... YOU SAID SO... I... I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...



AND NOW FOR THE PIECE DE RESISTANCE!

LOVED YOU! NEVER! DON'T BE A FOOL, LINDA... I WAS NEVER IN LOVE WITH YOU! YOU INTERESTED ME, THAT'S ALL! BUT NOW YOU BORE ME... SO GET OUT!

OH NO! SOB-SOB... HOW COULD YOU!



JOHN HELD HIS BREATH, FOR WHAT WOULD SHE DO... THEN HE RELAXED FOR SHE DID EXACTLY WHAT HE FELT SHE WOULD DO... HER LOVE HAD TURNED TO HATRED!

OH-OH... HOW I HATE YOU! DETEST YOU! SO I MEANT NOTHING TO YOU! YOU WERE ONLY USING ME! OF ALL THE LOW CONTEMPTABLE TRICKS! I HATE YOU... HATE YOU!





I HAD TO ACT QUICKLY, STAN... WHILE SHE STILL FELT THE EMOTION THAT I HAD PLANTED... THOUGH SHE DETESTED ME, SHE WAS STILL AN ACTRESS, SO IT WASN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE HER TO ACT IN MY NEXT PRODUCTION!

NOW THIS IS THE MOOD... THIS IS THE MAN WHO HAS SAID HE LOVES YOU ONLY YOU HAVE FOUND OUT DIFFERENTLY... THIS LOVE FOR HIM HAS CHANGED TO HATRED! THINK YOU CAN DO IT?

YES, I THINK SO!

I KNEW SHE COULD TOO... BUT I WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES!

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, JUST PRETEND IT'S ME STANDING OPPOSITE YOU!

WHY... WHY YOU...



NOW I HAD NO DOUBT AS TO HER EMOTIONS... HADN'T I BROUGHT THEM ON?

SHE WAS WONDERFUL... SENSATIONAL... FOR SHE WASN'T ACTING.. SHE WAS LIVING THIS ROLE!

THEN IT SHOULD BE EASY TO PLAY THIS PART...

YOU JUST PRETENDED TO LOVE ME.. AND NOW YOU WANT ME TO GO AWAY WITH YOU! NEVER! NEVER! I HATE YOU... DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I HATE YOU!

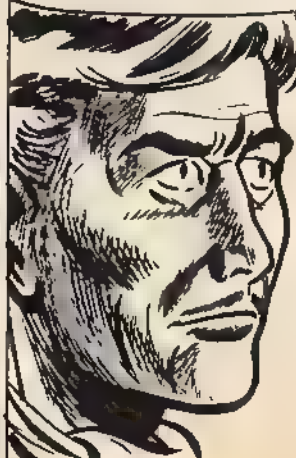
CUT! GREAT! SIMPLY GREAT!



THERE WAS NO QUESTION ABOUT THIS AWARD... NEVER HAD THEY SEEN ANY ACTING LIKE THAT! ONLY THE FOOLS DIDN'T REALIZE THEY WEREN'T WATCHING A PERFORMANCE... THEY WERE WATCHING THE REAL THING!

BUT JOHN... YOU CAN'T PLAY WITH PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS AS YOU HAVE WITH LINDA'S! YOU NEVER CAN TELL HOW SHE MIGHT REACT!

OH CAN'T I? WELL NOW I'M GOING TO CREATE MY GREATEST EPIC... AND I WILL ACT IN IT WITH LANA! SHE'S COMING HERE TONIGHT... THINKS MAYBE I'VE CHANGED IN MY FEELINGS TOWARD HER! BUT IT'S ONLY TO SET THE STAGE... A STAGE ON WHICH I PULL THE STRINGS OF HER EMOTIONS!

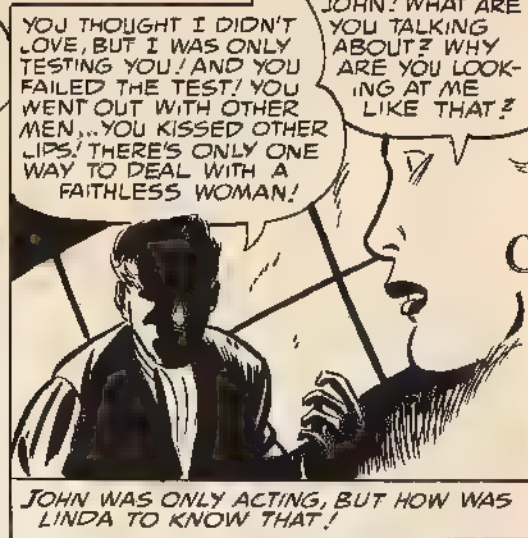




STAN TOWNES LEFT AFTER THAT... THIS WAS SOMETHING HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE... TO WITNESS! AND SO THE STAGE WAS SET... A STAGE WHERE HUMAN EMOTIONS WERE THE PROPS AND JOHN KING THE DIRECTOR! HOW WOULD LINDA LAWRENCE ACT... JOHN KING THOUGHT HE KNEW!

LINDA APPEARED AT THE APPOINTED TIME... JUST AS JOHN KNEW SHE WOULD!

YES, WHY HAD JOHN SENT FOR HER? WHAT WAS HE UP TO?

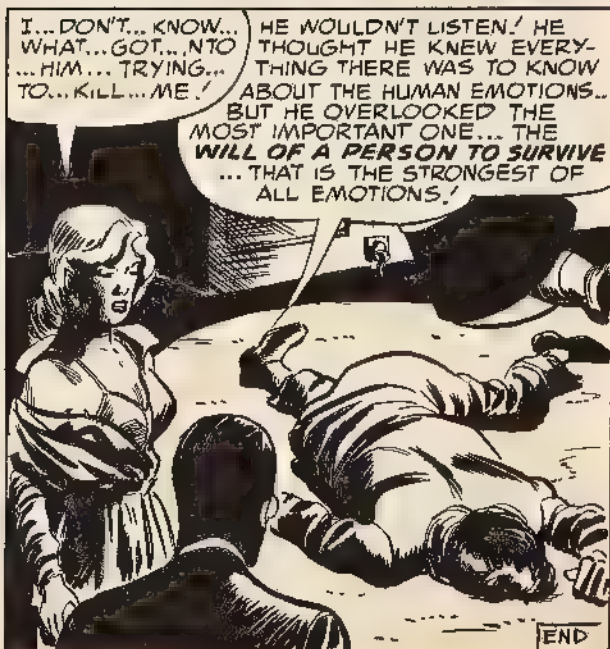


NOW JOHN KING'S PLAIN WAS CLEAN... MURDER! OR PRETENDED MURDER! HE WANTED LINDA LAWRENCE TO KNOW HOW IT FEELS WHEN SHE IS ABOUT TO BE SLAIN!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER STAN TOWNES APPEARED AT THE DOOR... YOU KNOW HOW ABSENT MINDED PROFESSORS CAN BE...



TOWNES BROKE INTO THE APARTMENT... WHAT HAD HAPPENED? WHAT WAS JOHN KING UP TO?





NORA WINTHROP WAS DETERMINED TO GET CONTROL OF HER HUSBAND'S FORTUNE, AND SHE HAD THE PERFECT METHOD -- FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THAT SHE COULD HAVE DELIBERATELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY DRIVEN THE OLD MAN ---

# INSANE





WHEN HER LOVER ARRIVED, NORA THREW HERSELF INTO HIS ARMS--

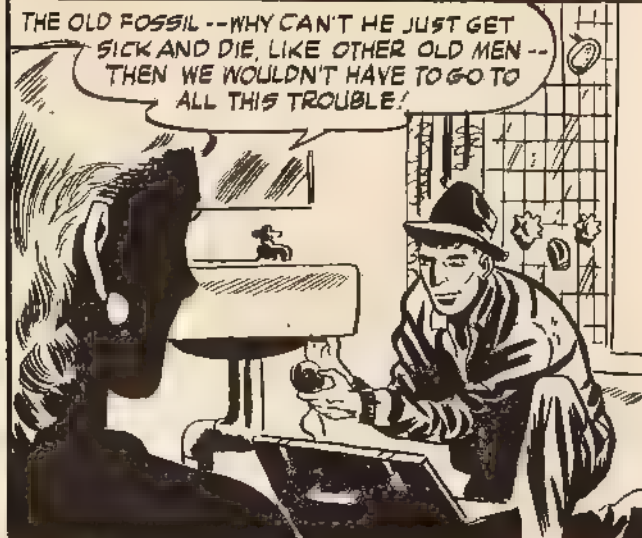
HE WON'T BE UP FOR HOURS--KISS ME, DARLING--

PLEASE, NORA--NOT NOW--I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!



AND SO THE TWO CONSPIRATORS LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR ELABORATE SCHEME TO DRIVE AN OLD MAN INSANE-- BY TAPING A TINY RECEIVER TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE SINK IN THE BATHROOM ADJOINING CYRUS' ROOM!

THE OLD FOSSIL--WHY CAN'T HE JUST GET SICK AND DIE, LIKE OTHER OLD MEN-- THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE!



--THE AMPLIFIER WAS CONCEALED BEHIND THE VENTILATOR IN CYRUS' ROOM--

THAT DOES IT--NOW DON'T FORGET TO LEAVE THAT FAUCET DRIPPING!

DON'T WORRY--THE SOONER WE GET THE OLD GOAT INTO AN ASYLUM THE SOONER I GET THAT FOUR MILLION BUCKS OF HIS!



JUST THINK, DARLING, FOUR MILLION DOLLARS, AND IT WILL BE ALL MINE!

OURS, BABY! REMEMBER I'VE GOT A STAKE IN THIS, TOO!



THAT NIGHT CYRUS WINTHROP WAS AWAKENED BY A STRANGE SOUND--



WHAT'S THAT?

IT GREW LOUDER AND LOUDER UNTIL THE VERY WALLS SHOOK--AT LAST HE RAN TO HIS WIFE'S ROOM--WAKENED HER--DRAGGED HER BACK TO HIS ROOM--

WHAT IS IT, CYRUS? WHAT DID YOU BRING ME IN HERE FOR?

DON'T YOU HEAR IT--THAT TERRIBLE SOUND--LIKE A DRIPPING FAUCET--ONLY 100 TIMES LOUDER!

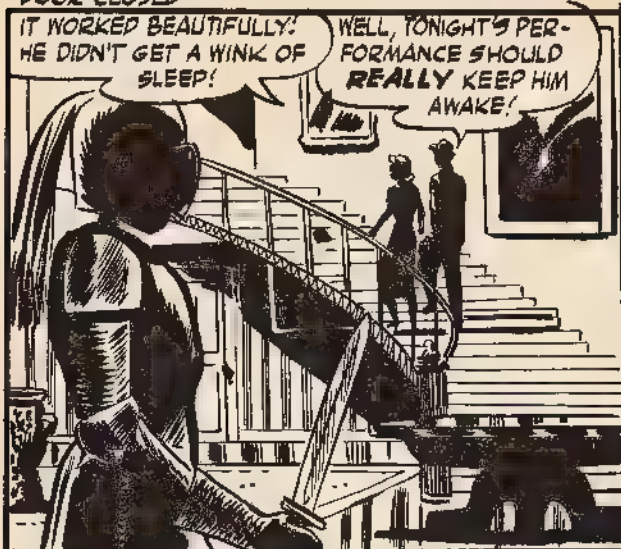


YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! I DON'T HEAR A SOUND! IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, CYRUS, I'M GOING BACK TO BED!





THE FOLLOWING DAY, CYRUS AGAIN LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS WORKROOM! NO SOONER WAS THE CELLAR DOOR CLOSED ---



IT WORKED BEAUTIFULLY! HE DIDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP!

WELL, TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE SHOULD REALLY KEEP HIM AWAKE!

THIS TIME THE DRIPPING FAUCET WAS REPLACED BY THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK ---

MAKE SURE THE WIRES DON'T SHOW!

LEAVE IT TO ME -- WHEN I GET THROUGH HE'LL THINK THE TICKING IS COMING FROM INSIDE HIS OWN HEAD!



AND AT MIDNIGHT THAT NIGHT --

THAT TICKING -- THAT HORRIBLE TICKING -- I CAN'T STAND IT!

I DON'T HEAR A THING, CYRUS -- ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING ALL RIGHT?



HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU DON'T HEAR IT! IT'S PRACTICALLY BURSTING MY EARDRUMS!

IT'S ALL IN YOUR MIND, CYRUS -- THIS ROOM IS AS QUIET AS A TOMB!



FOR THE NEXT TEN NIGHTS CYRUS' ROOM WAS A BEDLAM OF HORRIBLE NOISES! ALL MAGNIFIED A HUNDRED TIMES! NORA WAS SURE THE OLD MAN WAS READY TO CRACK --

CYRUS -- I'VE CALLED DR. GRUBER -- HE'S A PSYCHIATRIST! MAYBE HE CAN TELL YOU WHY YOU KEEP HEARING THOSE SOUNDS AT NIGHT!

YOU THINK I'M GOING INSANE, DON'T YOU? ALL RIGHT -- I'LL SEE THIS PSYCHIATRIST OF YOURS!





THE "PSYCHIATRIST" ARRIVED THAT AFTERNOON--

I DON'T KNOW, JIM-- HE STILL **ISN'T CONVINCED** THAT IT'S ALL IN HIS MIND!

OH, NO? WELL WE'LL SOON FIX THAT --I'VE BEEN STUDYING THIS PART FOR DAYS!



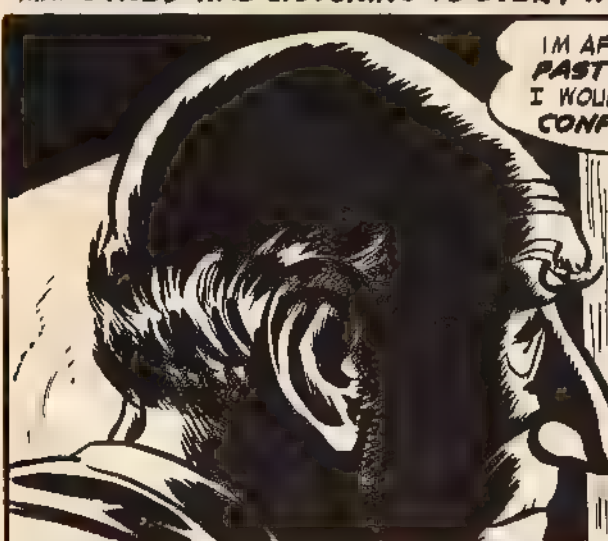
AND SO CYRUS WINTHROP UNDERWENT A SESSION OF PSYCHOANALYSIS UNDER THE SKILLFULL PRODDINGS OF "DR. GRUBER"!

AND THEN IT WAS THE SOUND OF CHAINS-- AND ALL OF THEM WERE HUNDREDS OF TIMES LOUDER THAN NORMAL! IT WAS HORRIBLE!

VERY INTERESTING-- AND YOU SAY YOUR WIFE NEVER HEARD ANY OF THESE NOISES?



AFTER THE EXAMINATION, "DR. GRUBER" HAD A TALK WITH MRS. WINTHROP-- THEY WERE QUITE AWARE THAT CYRUS WAS LISTENING TO EVERY WORD!



I'M AFRAID YOUR HUSBAND IS **PAST ALL HOPE, MRS. WINTHROP!** I WOULD SUGGEST YOU HAVE HIM **CONFINED TO AN ASYLUM!**

POOR CYRUS -- I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL BREAK THE NEWS TO HIM!



DID HE HEAR US?

YES-- YOU WERE **TERRIFIC!** IF THAT DOESN'T CONVINCE HIM, NOTHING WILL!



AFTER "DR. GRUBER" LEFT, CYRUS WENT DOWN TO THE BASEMENT-- THREE DAYS LATER HE STILL HADN'T COME UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT - HE'S BEEN DOWN THERE FOR THREE DAYS!

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!







CYRUS CALMLY WALKED OVER AND SNAPPED THE LOCK SHUT!



THE WEIRD PATTERN SEEMED TO TWIST AND REVOLVE IN ALL DIRECTIONS, MAKING THEIR HEADS SPIN-- THE FAUCET DRIPPED IN A STEADY INCESSANT RHYTHM! IN FIVE DAYS NORA AND HER LOVER WERE QUITE HOPELESSLY INSANE!





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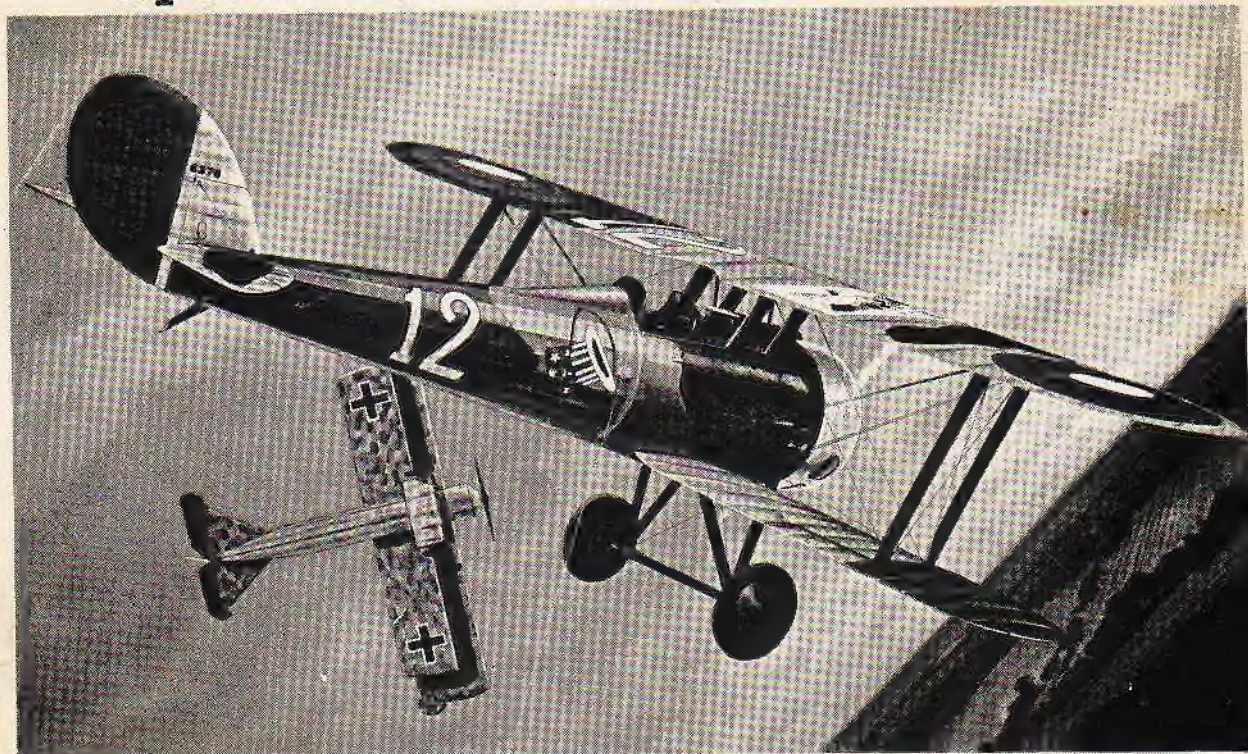
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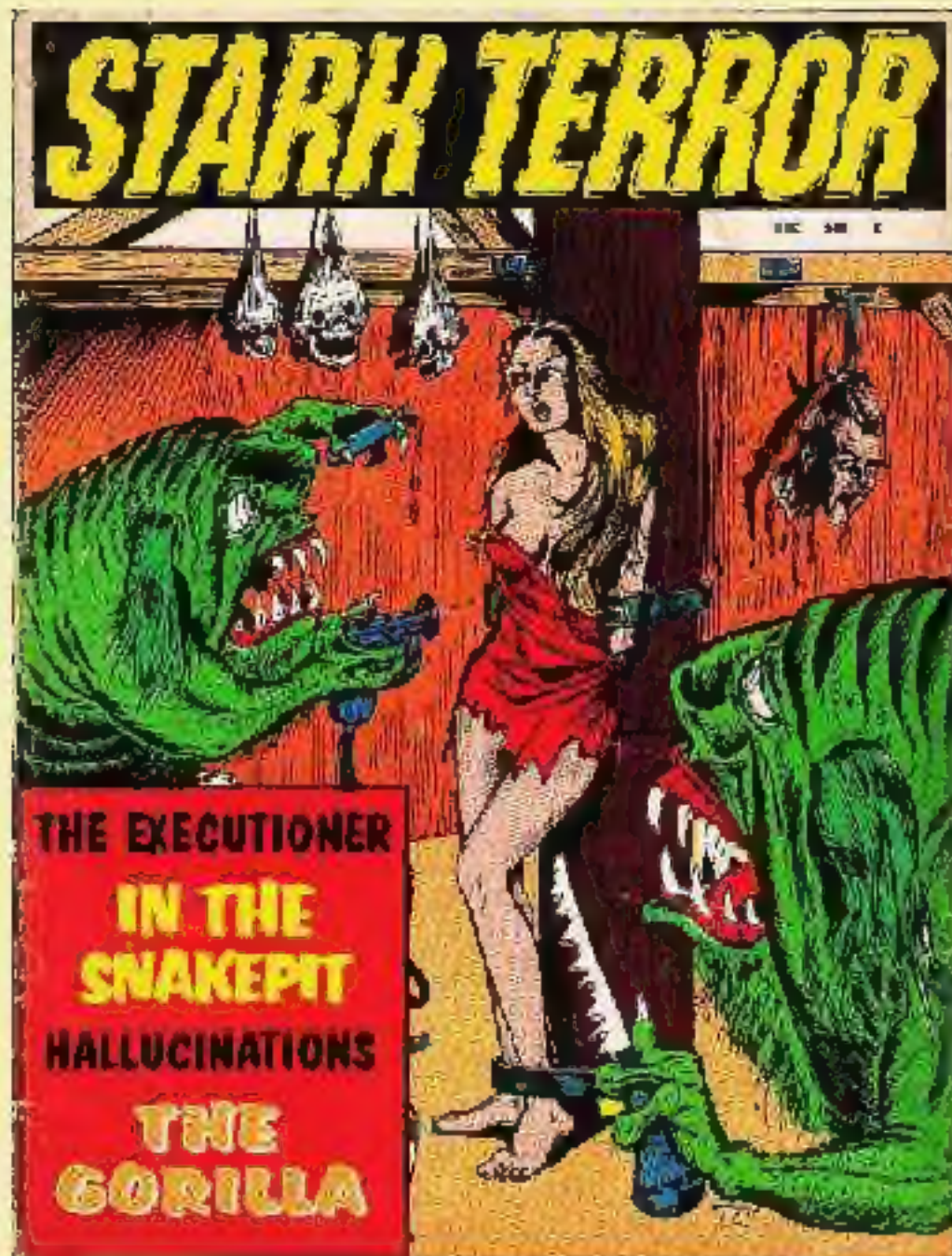
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## Stark Terror # 1 (1970)

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